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424

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

WITH

HER MAJESTY'S EMBASSY AT CONSTANTINOPLE,

RESPECTING THE

COMMERCIAL CONVENTION

WITH

TURKEY

OF

August 16, 1838.

3

(95)

F.O. 424/3

LIST OF PAPERS.

No.				Page
1. The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning	(No. 158)	October	7, 1844	1
2. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 211)	September	30, ——	3
3. Extract from the Porte's reply to the points contained in Sir Stratford Canning's instructions to M. Pisani of September 5, 1844 ..	..	..	..	4
4. The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning	(No. 173)	November	19, ——	5
5. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 216)	October	2, ——	5
6. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 226)	October	16, ——	6
Four Inclosures				
1. Mr. Consul-General Cartwright to Sir Stratford Canning..		..	..	7
2. Rifaat Pasha to Sir Stratford Canning		September	18, ——	8
3. Opinion of Mr. Black and British Merchants		May	7, ——	9
4. Opinion of Mr. Black and British Merchants		July	2, ——	11
7. The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning	(No. 179)	November	20, ——	13
8. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 246)	November	4, ——	13
9. The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning	(No. 181)	December	7, ——	14
Two Inclosures				
1. Mr. Macgregor to Mr. Addington		November	29, ——	14
2. Aali Effendi to the Earl of Aberdeen		October	11, ——	15
10. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 260)	November	20, ——	16
11. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 267)	November	30, ——	17
One Inclosure				
M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning		..	..	18
12. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 291)	December	23, ——	18
One Inclosure				
Sir Stratford Canning to Chekib Effendi		..	..	19
13. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 293)	December	28, ——	20
14. The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning	(No. 13)	February	6, 1845	21
15. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen ..	(No. 7)	January	25, ——	21
Seven Inclosures				
1. Replies of Mr. Consul-General Cartwright to the queries submitted by Sir Stratford Canning		January	7, ——	22
2. Replies of Mr. Consul Brant		..	..	23
3. Replies of British Merchants at Constantinople ..		January	6, ——	25
4. Replies of Messrs. C. Whittall and Co. of Smyrna ..		..	..	28
5. Replies of Mr. Perkins of Smyrna		..	..	29
6. Report of Mr. Calvert on the state of commerce in Bulgaria		January	16, ——	31
7. Report of Mr. Calvert on commerce of Moldavia and Wallachia		January	15, ——	34
16. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 48)	March	5, ——	35
Four Inclosures				
1. The Grand Vizier to the Governor of Candia		March	3, ——	36
2. The Grand Vizier to the Pasha of Adana		March	3, ——	36
3. Sir Stratford Canning to Mr. Consul Ongley		March	5, ——	37
4. Sir Stratford Canning to Mr. Consul Suter		March	5, ——	37
17. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen .	(No. 127)	May	22, ——	38
18. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen ..	(No. 137)	June	2, ——	38
Four Inclosures				
1. Mr. Sandison's Protest		May	18, ——	39
2. Mr. Consul Simmons to Sir Stratford Canning		May	29, ——	39
3. Petition and Protest of Messrs. Schnell and Co. of Adrianople		..	..	40
4. Sir Stratford Canning to Chekib Effendi		June	2, ——	40
19. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen ..	(No. 181)	August	4, ——	41
One Inclosure				
M. Frederick Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning		August	1, ——	42
20. The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning ..	(No. 94)	October	3, ——	43
21. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 224)	September	25, ——	43
22. Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen	(No. 9)	January	19, 1846	43
Two Inclosures				
1. Mr. Consul Kerr to Sir Stratford Canning .. .		December	31, 1845	44
2. Articles of exportation from Cyprus		..	..	44

No.				Page
23.	Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen .. .. (No. 37)	March	5, 1846	45
	Three Inclosures			
	1. Major Rawlinson to Sir Stratford Canning	February	3, ——	45
	2. Messrs. Hector and Co. to Major Rawlinson	January	20, ——	47
	3. Abstract Statement of Trade of Bagdad during 1845 ..	..	..	49
24.	Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen .. .. (No. 46)	March	18, ——	50
	Five Inclosures			
	1. Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir Stratford Canning	March	10, ——	50
	2. Mr. Black and British Merchants to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch	March	6, ——	51
	3. Sir Stratford Canning to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch	March	14, ——	52
	4. Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir Stratford Canning	March	19, ——	53
	5. Mr. Black and British Merchants to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch	March	18, ——	53
25.	The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning .. (No. 26)	April	6, ——	53
26.	The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning .. (No. 47)	May	19, ——	54
27.	The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning .. (No. 48)	May	19, ——	54
28.	The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning .. (No. 49)	May	19, ——	55
29.	Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen .. (No. 66)	April	30, ——	55
30.	Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen .. (No. 79)	May	17, ——	56
	One Inclosure			
	Commercial Treaty between Russia and the Porte ..	April	30, ——	56
31.	Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen .. (No. 80)	May	17, ——	62
	Two Inclosures			
	1. Aali Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning	May	11, ——	63
	2. Sir Stratford Canning to Aali Effendi	May	11, ——	64
32.	Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen .. (No. 81)	May	17, ——	65

Further Correspondence with Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople respecting the Commercial Convention with Turkey of August 16, 1838.

No. 1.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 158.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1844.*

I N my despatch No. 141 of the 4th of last month I transmitted to your Excellency some papers which had been communicated to me by the Austrian Minister at this Court, in further explanation of the views of the Cabinet of Vienna, as to the principles upon which the Powers of Europe interested in the welfare of Turkey should regulate their commercial intercourse with the Porte.

The modification of the existing rates of commutation duties forms, as your Excellency will have seen in these papers, as well as in those communicated to you in my despatches No. 84 of the 5th of June, and No. 106 of the 8th of July, a main feature of the Austrian plan; the Cabinet of Vienna conceiving that the present rates are calculated to give an unfair advantage to the foreign trader over the domestic producer, and thus lead eventually to the impoverishment and ruin of the Ottoman Empire, which it is the object of the Powers of Europe to uphold.

Her Majesty's Government, as your Excellency is aware, coincide so far in the opinion of the Court of Vienna as to be willing to co-operate with other Powers in relieving Turkey from the disadvantage under which it is alleged to labour in this respect. Whether, indeed, the Porte is sensible of the extent of the disadvantage which the Cabinet of Vienna considers to result to it from the present system has not, so far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, been made evident. On the contrary, from an observation in M. Hummelauer's Memorandum of the 1st of April, it would rather appear that the Cabinet of Vienna is not without apprehension that the present Ministry of the Porte, with the usual short-sightedness which characterizes the councils of Turkey, might be disposed to demur to a change in the rates of commutation duties which, however pregnant with real benefit to the country at large, might involve in the first instance a diminution of the receipts of the Turkish treasury. M. Hummelauer says:—"Les Ministres Turques ne voyent dans les Traités et dans les Tarifs, que des mesures fiscales, une machinerie destinée uniquement à faire entrer de l'argent dans les caisses du Gouvernement; ce n'est donc pas avec les Ministres Turques qu'il serait utile d'ouvrir des pourparlers préalables," &c.

Be this as it may however, the British Government have the real and permanent interests of Turkey so much at heart, that they would not hesitate, even at some sacrifice in the first instance of the interests of the British manufacturer, to co-operate with other Powers in endeavouring to persuade the Ottoman Ministers to take an enlarged view of what the welfare of Turkey requires.

Her Majesty's Government moreover agree with the Cabinet of Vienna in considering that it is not incumbent upon them to wait, as the French

Government appear disposed to do, until the period arrives for renewing the Tariffs of 1839, namely, until the year 1846, before making the attempt to enter into a common understanding with the Porte as to the modification of the existing rates of commutation duties. At the same time however, the experience which Her Majesty's Government have had of the serious inconvenience which results to British trade when one Power holds itself aloof from the commercial engagements subsisting between others and the Porte, would render it in their opinion extremely injudicious to moot the question with the Porte, unless with the unanimous concurrence of all the Powers of Europe having treaties with Turkey.

But while Her Majesty's Government concur so far with the Cabinet of Vienna, they cannot admit with that Cabinet the expediency of recommending the Russian Government to postpone its acquiescence in the scale of commutation duties fixed by the Treaty of 1838, until a new and general arrangement of those duties shall have been discussed and adopted by all Powers and the Porte. On the contrary, Her Majesty's Government conceives that the evil which results from the undue advantage enjoyed by Russian over British trade should be redressed without delay; and on account of the immediate and pressing nature of that evil, they would hesitate to participate in any attempt to discuss the general question of duties with the Porte, unless they were assured that the remedy for the specific grievance under which British commerce now labours should not in the meanwhile be delayed. That grievance is the exemption of Russian commerce from the Commutation duties which press upon British commerce; and Her Majesty's Government heard with great satisfaction that the negotiations pending between Russia and the Porte promised to provide the remedy for that grievance by subjecting Russian commerce to the same amount of commutation duties as is stipulated in the Convention of 1838, and thereby placing the Russian and British trade, in respect to duties, on a footing of perfect equality.

Her Majesty's Government do not consider that it would form any serious impediment to the conclusion of a new and general arrangement on the basis suggested by the Cabinet of Vienna, if Russia should accede provisionally to an arrangement founded on the basis of the Convention of 1838; and if this preliminary measure could be expedited, the whole of the Powers, including Russia, would, Her Majesty's Government conceive, be in a condition to proceed with advantage to the consideration of the question, in what manner the general terms of the Convention of 1838 could be improved for all parties alike, and with a view especially to the relief of the Ottoman Empire from such disadvantages as it may be thought to suffer at present, in consequence of the particular form of the stipulations of the Convention of 1838, relating to the Commutation Duties.

But in order that any alterations in the existing system may be really beneficial, it will be requisite that sufficient time should be allowed for their consideration, and also that all parties should approach the subject on an equal footing. For this reason alone Her Majesty's Government would consider it advisable that, as a preliminary measure, the adoption of the scale of 1838 in the contemplated Convention between Russia and the Porte, should be promoted by all parties feeling an interest in the general question propounded by Austria. But Her Majesty's Government, in common with other Powers, and specifically with France, have the strongest reasons for desiring that the exceptional position which is now held by Russian trade should be changed. Your Excellency has been already authorized to warn the Porte that if the grievance under which British trade now labours were not shortly remedied, Her Majesty's Government would have recourse to that specific remedy which the Treaty of 1838 has provided in its First Article. Her Majesty's Government hoped that long before this, the conclusion of the projected Commercial Convention between Russia and the Porte would have established that equality between Russian and British trade, which is all that they desire. In that expectation they have been disappointed; and they know not how long they may have to wait, unless the Porte will fairly consider how serious the question as it now stands is for England, and how serious will be the question for Turkey,

if Her Majesty's Government claim the benefit of the First Article of the Convention of 1838.

That the Porte may not be taken unawares, I have to instruct your Excellency once more to warn the Porte of the consequences of delay. We have borne too long the disadvantages of the present state of things: but we wish to relieve ourselves from them in the manner least vexatious to the Porte. We wait for your Excellency's reply to this instruction before we direct you to announce to the Porte that we require that British commerce shall be placed in Turkey on precisely the same footing as Russian commerce, in the hope that your answer will convey the gratifying intelligence that an arrangement has been actually concluded between the Porte and Russia, which shall effect that object in the manner which we consider most conducive to the interests of the Porte. But if the result of your communication with the Turkish Ministers on this matter should lead to the conclusion that no such arrangement is likely to be speedily entered into, your Excellency will prepare the Porte for a demand on the part of Her Majesty's Government under the First Article of the Convention, and you will intimate to it that all sums which from the date of that demand shall be levied on British trade on account of the commutation duties of 2 and 9 per cent. at any of the ports of Turkey, will be required from the Turkish Government, and the payment of them, if necessary, enforced.

I take this opportunity to remind your Excellency that I am still in expectation of receiving from you the further information as to the effect to be expected from a compliance with the wishes expressed by the Porte in the memorandum inclosed in your despatch No. 227, of the 27th of October, 1842, for a modification of certain provisions of the Commercial Convention of 1838, which it was the object of my despatch No. 40 of the 19th of March last, to elicit.

I shall transmit a copy of my present despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives at Vienna, Paris, and St. Petersburgh, for communication to those Courts.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 2.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.--(Received October 26.)

(No. 211.)

My Lord, *Buyukdery, September 30, 1844.*

AGREEABLY to the instructions addressed to me by your Lordship on several occasions, I have continued to insist on the full execution of the Commercial Treaty with the Porte. I have pressed for satisfactory assurances on the several points complained of, and I have never ceased to claim a full compensation for every British subject who has suffered from the arbitrary measures of the Turkish Ministry.

The points more particularly in question, as your Lordship may remember, are these:—

1. The re-establishment of certain kinds of monopoly. 2. The exclusion of British subjects from every branch of retail trade. 3. The imposition of highway tolls on British merchandize passing through the country. To these contraventions of the Commercial Treaty, might be added an attempt to levy certain internal duties on goods belonging to British merchants. But I have succeeded in resisting the latter pretension, and I have already informed your Lordship that with respect to the highway tolls, I obtained redress in the case brought forward by Her Majesty's Consul in Albania.

The other individual cases of illegal exaction or of prohibition, whether to sell or to keep shop, are either resisted altogether by the Porte, or so delayed and embroiled as to remain virtually unredressed. These cases are not numerous, but they are attended with great injury

to the merchants immediately concerned, and they no doubt operate generally to the prejudice and discouragement of trade. They are amply stated in my official note to Rifaat Pasha, dated the 7th April, and transmitted to your Lordship, in copy, among the inclosures to my despatch No. 67 of the present year. Notwithstanding the assurances given by that Minister in his official answer received the 14th of April, they have been constant subjects of discussion between the Porte and Her Majesty's Embassy ever since. The Porte has now repeated its promise to settle the two principal claims, engaging to submit the demands of the claimants for loss and damages to the award of an equitable commission. The time however which has elapsed since the first assurance was given, the chicaning spirit of the Financial Department, and the difficulty of obtaining a fair judgment, make it doubtful whether the promised satisfaction will yet be obtained. But whether redress be obtained or not in these individual cases, the Porte still maintains on principle the pretensions in which they originated; and it is obvious that the interests both of Her Majesty's subjects and of Her Majesty's Embassy will continue to be exposed to much vexation and detriment, so long as the present uncertainty remains concerning those questions. The absence of any new speculations in the disputed articles of trade would itself go far to prove that commerce is checked on that side by the arbitrary proceedings of the Porte; and if the Porte be neither obliged to forego its pretensions, nor satisfied by some modification of the existing engagements, prolonged and irritating discussions will gradually kindle into feelings of resentment, and perhaps finally paralyze the influence of our friendly counsels at some decisive juncture.

When we view the interests at stake in connexion with those long-standing claims for which, under your Lordship's special instructions, I have vainly sought redress by means of equitable inquiry and arbitration, the necessity of some determinate issue becomes still more apparent. In order to do justice to those instructions, and to secure a chance of success, it was indispensable at last to assume an attitude implying that the demands of Her Majesty's Government were not to be trifled with; and as no fresh arguments or facts are now brought forward in answer to them, although the old ground is formally maintained, I really do not see how the question can be left in its present stage without serious disadvantage and discredit.

For the particular terms of the Porte's official reply on the cases involving commercial principles, I have the honour of referring your Lordship to the memorandum or note verbale addressed to me by Rifaat Pasha, and inclosed in translation with my despatch No. 212 of this date.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 3.

Extract from the Porte's Reply to the points contained in Sir Stratford Canning's Instructions to M. Pisani, of September 5, 1844.

(Incl sed in Sir Stratford Canning's Despatch No. 212, of September 30, 1844.

Affaire de l'Argent des Derbend.

NOUS l'avons déjà déclaré plusieurs fois, ces droits de Derbend très anciens ne font partie ni des droits de douane, ni de ces autres droits qui ont été abolis. Et puis on ne les prend pas dans tout l'Empire, mais dans quelques endroits seulement, et cela à titre d'argent de sûreté (ou de bon voyage); quelques négocians les payent sans hésiter, pour faciliter leurs affaires, et cette pratique fait partie du système sur le commerce intérieur. On ne peut voir aucun motif pour y objecter.

Affaire de Sel et de Tabac.

Ainsi qu'il a été représenté à votre Excellence, tant par le passé que dernièrement encore, ces articles ne sont pas dans la même catégorie que les autres articles. Ce sont des fermes anciennes, des fermes particulières de la Sublime Porte. Tous les ans on prend et l'on donne ces articles à ferme avec les conditions particulières auxquelles ils sont assujetis. La Sublime Porte, toujours constante à exécuter fidèlement les traités, ne se permet aucun procédé contraire aux traités, et dorénavant aussi elle ne se relâchera pas non plus sur ce principe. Mais les dispositions du Traité de Commerce ne concernent que les produits de la terre et de l'industrie, il est clair que le texte du Traité ne s'étend pas sur le produit des mines et sur les objets fabriqués; les fabriques et les mines étant d'anciennes fermes du Gouvernement.

Les monopoles qui ont été abolis consistent dans la défense qu'il y avait de vendre librement les productions qui étaient des biens des particuliers. Quant au tabac et au sel qui se trouvent à Salonique, il faut que des négocians bien informés et nommés de part et d'autre, se réunissent dans un endroit convenable, afin qu'ils procèdent à examiner les frais qui ont été faits en toute justice, et qu'on fasse après cela ce qui sera nécessaire.

Nous dirons en cette occasion ceci seulement, que les disputes de cette espèce proviennent de ce que la réponse favorable qu'on attend aux modifications proposées n'est pas encore venue. Il est donc nécessaire de vous prier de rechef d'employer vos bons offices pour faire venir un moment plus tôt l'autorisation pour faire les modifications qui sont sollicitées afin de faire cesser tout à fait les contestations et les difficultés.

No. 4.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 173.)

(Extract.) *Foreign Office, November* 19, 1844.

WE have repeatedly demanded that the Treaty of 1838 be strictly and literally executed on the part of Turkey, as we have always executed it on our part. We cannot admit the right of the Porte to put an arbitrary construction on the provisions of that Treaty, directly at variance with its letter, and to refuse their execution except in accordance with that construction. If the Porte desires alterations in the Treaty, it may submit the desired alterations to the British Government, and we shall not refuse to take their wishes into fair and impartial consideration. But in the meantime the Treaty must be executed to its letter. Your Excellency will accordingly require that all those cases of infraction of the Treaty which you have repeatedly brought before the Porte, shall be forthwith taken into consideration and the aggrieved parties compensated.

No. 5.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 216.)

My Lord, *Buyukdery, October* 2, 1844.

BARON GHERINGER, charged by Prince Metternich with a commission to investigate the commercial questions pending in this country arrived here some days ago and was introduced to me by Count Stürmer. His object he assures me is strictly confined to inquiry. As your Lordship did not accompany the communication of the correspondence which has passed between the Courts of London, Vienna, and Paris, on the occasion of M. de Hummelauer's visit to England, and on the

subject of his proposals, with any instruction beyond what was necessary to characterize the communication as one of mere personal information, I have been careful not to express any opinion which could be considered as at all proceeding from Her Majesty's Government, or sanctioned by the Foreign Office.

Baron Gheringer informs me that after several interviews with the Turkish Minister who is best acquainted with commercial matters, he perceives so decided an intention at the Porte to retrace its progress in improvement and to revive the discarded abuses, that he looks with doubt and apprehension to any extensive modification of the Treaty of Balta Liman. This avowal is the more striking as the interests of Austrian traffic with this country, and particularly with the Danubian provinces, would, it is thought, be considerably benefited by a diminution of the export duties in Turkey as compared with those on imported goods.

It appears from what has come to his and Count Stürmer's knowledge, that so much progress has been made in the Russian negotiations with the Porte, that an agreement will probably be signed between the parties immediately after the festival of Baïram. I understand that the differences are reduced to three points, one being a matter of form and the other two relating to the principalities and the internal trade. I hope to have more information on these matters in a short time.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 6.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 226.)

My Lord, *Buyukdery, October 16, 1844.*

AMONG the commercial measures which at Sarim Effendi's request, and after much discussion with that Minister, I submitted to your Lordship's consideration in the years 1842-3, was the exhibition of ships' manifests, as obligatory upon the captains of British vessels arriving in the ports of Turkey, and particularly in that of Constantinople. I did not at that time see any objection to the proposed measure; and in my despatch No. 52 of March 18, 1843, I remarked that the want of proper authority alone prevented me from acceding at once to the wishes of the Porte. In the course of this year the same measure has been frequently and earnestly pressed upon my acceptance by Rifaat Pasha, in connexion with other regulations brought forward by the Minister of Finance with a view to the suppression of smuggling. At the request of their Excellencies I obtained the opinions of our principal merchants upon the character and probable effect of the regulations in question. The unanimous opinion of the merchants was unfavourable to most of the proposed measures, and particularly to the exhibition of the manifests. This result of my appeal to them was not satisfactory to the Turkish Ministers; and after repeated solicitations I was prevailed upon to call upon the merchants for a more deliberate consideration of the Porte's proposals modified. I applied to them through Mr. Cartwright, who explained the points in question, and at my request invited them to make no objection without giving a reason and proposing a substitute. Their answer to this requisition was similar in its general purport to their previous opinion, though accompanied with counter-proposals, in their judgment of a more efficient character than those of the Porte. The Porte was not more satisfied with this result than with the former one; and I have been given to understand that the difficulty thus made by our merchants has created much ill will towards the Embassy. This effect, if it be real, may have been aided by the facilities obtained from the French Ambassador, who was influenced by his commercial counsellors, whose trade is very limited, and by the desire, as he told me, to conciliate the Turkish Authorities after the affair of Moussul. Be that as it may, the Minister for

Foreign Affairs has recently returned to the charge, and sent me a memorandum, detaching the question of the manifests from the other commercial questions and proposed regulations, and again most earnestly recommending it for a favourable consideration.

On my part I have promised to submit the question separately to your Lordship's superior judgment; and it will afford me much satisfaction to be channel of a favourable answer to the Porte, if those who are most versed in commercial questions in England should not see reason to attach a decisive importance to the remarks of the merchants here.

Thinking it might be satisfactory to your Lordship to know the sentiments of Her Majesty's Consul-General upon this matter, I applied to Mr. Cartwright, and have the honour to inclose a copy of his answer.

I avail myself of the same opportunity to transmit copies as herewith inclosed, of Rifaat Pasha's last memorandum, and of the opinions of the merchants, who I ought to observe are gentlemen of the first respectability and of much commercial experience.

By the Russian Commercial Treaty of 1783, and that concluded by Austria in the following year, vessels passing the Dardanelles under the flags of these Powers, are engaged to exhibit their manifests; the Porte however being bound to accept them without objection under the signature of the respective Ministers. With respect to the exhibition of manifests by vessels unlading at Constantinople, I doubt whether any Foreign Embassy but that of France has distinctly assented to the Porte's demand.

Mr. Cartwright's suggestion of a conference between the Turkish Authorities, and a deputation of merchants from the several nations trading here, appears to me objectionable, on account of the extreme difficulty which exists of relieving the merchants from the apprehension of publicly declaring opinions opposed to those Ministers of influence whose good will is sometimes of essential consequence to their interests.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Mr. Consul-General Cartwright to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour of returning herewith the opinion of the merchants which was inclosed with your Excellency's letter of yesterday. Both papers were transmitted through my channel to your Excellency, as well as a "Mémoire de la Porte," respecting the means to be employed for the prevention of smuggling, when it was returned to me by the merchants to whom I had communicated it at your Excellency's desire. I did not on those occasions offer any opinion on the subject of the measures proposed, because it did not appear to me that more was required than the opinion of the merchants, who were best able to judge how far the execution of them would interfere with their own fair interests.

I have perused both papers, and I beg leave to state that I agree generally with the merchants in their objections to the proposed measures.

The Porte has on previous occasions proposed modifications of some of the conditions of the Commercial Convention, and the intention of restricting the privileges granted by it is tolerably evident.

Under the plea of preventing smuggling, measures are proposed which appear to be more adapted to embarrass the transhipping operations authorized by the Convention than to provide for the attainment of the professed object, and though the delivery of ships' manifests would appear to be an unexceptionable request in itself, still the suspicions entertained by our merchants that the possession of that document might tend rather to create general embarrassment than to facilitate the repression of smuggling are deserving of consideration. On the other hand if it be the

practice in other countries for manifests to be delivered at the custom-house, on the arrival and departure of vessels, Her Majesty's Government would not, it may be presumed, deny to the Porte the right of exacting the observance of the rule here.

I have understood that the merchants of other nations have made similar objections to the proposed measures, and it is therefore advisable that the subject be entertained as a common cause. The Turkish authorities might have been more explicit in their statements, and explanation appears to be necessary.

A deputation of merchants of all nations might possibly succeed in proving to the Finance Minister that his plans are attended by difficulties which have not been sufficiently estimated.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN CARTWRIGHT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Rifaat Pasha to Sir Stratford Canning.

18 *Septembre*, 1844.

(Traduction.)

LA Sublime Porte a une demande aussi juste qu'importante qu'elle va exposer ici en priant votre Excellence de la prendre en considération, et d'employer votre sollicitude bienveillante pour sa prompte exécution.

Ainsi que vous le savez, c'est une règle dans le commerce, règle observée dans tous les pays, d'exhiber et de montrer aux douaniers la liste appelée manifeste des marchandises que les bâtimens marchands étrangers transportent d'un endroit dans un autre, et cela dans les ports et échelles où l'on veut les débarquer.

Cette règle, observée autrefois par les négocians étrangers qui vinrent aux ports et aux échelles des Etats Ottomans, a été depuis négligée en quelque façon et n'a pas pu être exécutée comme il faut. Les négocians sujets Ottomans donnent la liste des marchandises sous la dénomination de Caimé.

L'expérience prouve que lorsque les manifestes des bâtimens marchands des Puissances amies ne sont pas exhibés, la contrebande s'ensuit et les droits de douane sont perdus. Or les droits de douane forment dans chaque Gouvernement une branche considérable et importante des revenus qui exige une grande attention et que certainement chaque Gouvernement est en droit de préserver de toute préjudice. Il est donc d'une nécessité absolue et évidente que désormais la règle dont il s'agit soit observée dans toutes les douanes de l'Empire Ottoman. Ce principe n'est pas nouveau, il est en vigueur dans les états de chaque Gouvernement, et les exemples l'attestent.

Le véritable objet qu'on a en vuê dans cette mesure, est qu'on ne fasse pas passer des marchandises à l'insu de la douane. Aussi les négocians honnêtes et jouissant de bon crédit qui ne se permettent en aucune manière de pareils actes injustes n'auront-ils aucune difficulté à s'adapter au principe d'exhiber des manifestes avec la plus grande loyauté. Et supposé même qu'il se trouvât quelques négocians qui hésiteraient de le faire, comme leur objection ne saurait être considérée comme une excuse fondée en raison, et qu'indépendamment de cela cette objection pourrait faire douter de leur probité et de leur crédit, le cas exigerait que leurs Légations au lieu de faire attention à leur objection, leur donnassent les ordres nécessaires pour qu'ils eussent à se conformer aux précédens.

Convaincus d'après votre équité que vous aurez de bonnes dispositions, des dispositions amicales à faire réussir et exécuter toutes les mesures concernant l'Etat qui pourraient être utiles à la Sublime Porte, et surtout une mesure fondée comme celle dont il s'agit sur une règle générale actuellement en vigueur dans tous les Etats, et sur un droit sacré de la Sublime Porte, inhérent aux droits des Gouvernemens, nous vous prions très particulièrement de donner des ordres à ceux qu'il faut, que dorénavant on ait à montrer et à exhiber aux douaniers les manifestes des marchandises propriété Anglaise qui sont importées dans les Etats Ottomans ou exportées de l'Empire, quel que soit le port, quelle que soit l'échelle, où l'on veut les débarquer. On enregistrera le manifeste tout de suite, on le rendra au négociant, et d'après les règles usitées on prendra les droits de douane sur les marchandises débarquées. Et c'est pour faire la demande ci-dessus que ce memorandum a été écrit exprès et qu'il est remis à votre Excellence.

Le 5 Ramazan, 1260.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

Opinion of Mr. Black and other British Merchants at Galata.

THE following observations have resulted out of a perusal of the "Mémoire de la Porte sur les Réglemens qu'elle va faire pour empêcher la Contrabande à Constantinople et dans le Bosphore, annexé au memorandum officiel du 23 Avril, 1844."

Nothing could be more desirable than to see effective measures adopted by the Porte for the putting an end to smuggling, and for the introducing better regulations than now exist for the discharging of vessels, the transhipment of goods, and the other matters referred to in the "Mémoire;" but the undersigned feel convinced that the object in view (which they understand to mean a better system in everything connected with the putting down smuggling, the discharging and loading of vessels in this port, &c.,) cannot be attained by the means proposed; and in noticing the essential points it will be seen that the undersigned apprehend increased difficulties were those measures carried into effect.

It is much to be doubted whether the proposed plan of anchoring a man-of-war in the port with guard-boats to act in concert with her, would produce the desired object of preventing smuggling, for the simple reason that the Turkish authorities have never made it the interest of their employés to be faithful to their duties, to which cause most of these abuses may be traced.

The undersigned do not know to what extent the observations of the Porte may be correct on vessels anchoring in the port and transhipping goods into other vessels, either from ship or ships or by means of mahons or light boats. They however do not wish to infringe on treaties, but at the same time are anxious to enjoy the privileges to which they are entitled by the treaties.

The Porte next extending its remarks with reference to foreign vessels coming from foreign ports and anchoring at the custom-house or in the harbour, says:—"When another foreign vessel shall go alongside those already anchored for the purpose of transhipment and exportation to a foreign country the customer must first be apprized of the measure, when assuredly the transhipment will be permitted, but not so by boats or other craft from one vessel to another."

The objection of the Porte to the transhipment of goods by ships' boats or other European craft, is a point of too great importance to be slightly overlooked, for the loss of this privilege would be highly prejudicial to shipping as well as commercial interests generally.

Before employés are engaged to make their rounds among the shipping in every direction in order to see that vessels with cargoes shall *only* anchor at the custom-house, it would require *five times* the accommodation it now professes to justify the measure. It not unfrequently happens that fifty to sixty vessels with entire or part cargoes arrive in this port in the course of a couple of days. The custom-house has only accommodation for discharging three or at most four vessels at a time, and supposing that each vessel required upon an average a week, (in many cases it would be a great deal more,) it is evident that a large proportion of them would have to wait from two to three months, and perhaps longer, before they were discharged, which would be an insuperable objection to the proposed measure.

The ancient rule said to exist of vessels coming from foreign parts having to produce their manifests at the custom-house, showing the quantities and qualities of the goods forming the cargoes, and the names of the proprietors in order to their being registered, with the marks and numbers, must indeed be of old date, for it has not been in practice for thirty years or more. The only notes taken of goods at the custom house consist of the numbers marked on the package, their contents and the names of the receivers.

The measure which the Porte now proposes to adopt would be attended with serious difficulties.

1. The vessels coming from Liverpool with manufactures which represent nine-tenths of the value of the whole import trade from Great Britain to Constantinople, show by their manifests from 100 to 200 different marks by each vessel, two-thirds of which are consigned to order, and it is only some time after the arrival of the vessels that the consignees of the goods can be ascertained. Some of the packages are intended for the Danube, others for Odessa, for Trebizond, for Radout Kale, &c.; so that the possession of the manifest would rather tend to embarrass than facilitate the operations of the custom-house, where they have never yet acted upon upon such a document as they now require.

2. It is generally stipulated in the bills of lading of those goods destined for other ports, that the packages shall remain ten days on board, in order to allow the parties time to make arrangements for their transhipment or to receive orders from the owners. This would necessarily be an impediment to other vessels discharging, and so increase the delay. Besides, consignees having goods originally destined for Constantinople may find it their interest to send them on to Odessa or some other place out of Turkey, or to sell them on sample (which is a common practice) with an engagement that they shall be landed and delivered within a week or ten days. If then each vessel were to take her turn at the custom-house such contracts would be cancelled by the delay, and endless disputes would be the result. In fact we fear that the possession of the manifests by the Turkish authorities would be a fruitful source of misunderstandings.

With reference to European vessels bringing cargoes here from Turkish ports the authorities require the production of teskéré from the custom-house at the place where the cargo may have been loaded upon which the duty is to be paid here; but the undersigned see no provision made for cases where the duties have already been levied at the places of shipment, whether arbitrarily or otherwise; it would be very unjust to render captains responsible in such cases.

The plan proposed by the Porte of making masters of vessels, who load cargoes of Turkish produce in Turkish ports, bound for Europe or for transhipment here, produce an "admissible teskéré" at the custom-house, proving that the duties fixed by Tariff have been paid thereon, is nothing more nor less than seeking to make the captains a check upon the acts of the local authorities. It is their duty to see that no goods be shipped without the proper duties having been paid; and it can never be expected that masters of vessels shall be held responsible for the irregularities of the shippers or the negligence of the authorities, against both of whom the Porte can have its recourse.

Galata, May 7, 1844.

(Signed) T. N. BLACK.
WM. WOOD.
CHARLES EDE.
CHARLES HANSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 6.

Opinion of Mr. Black and other British Merchants of Galata.

THE undersigned having carefully considered the subjects alluded to in a memorandum dated the 19th June, wherein it is stated that his Excellency the Ambassador is desirous of receiving a more deliberate and comprehensive opinion on several points on which they had previously reported, have now the honour to submit the following observations thereon:—

1st. Article. The Porte urges the production of the manifests of vessels at the custom-house, as a means of ascertaining whether parts of the cargoes have not been landed without the knowledge of the custom-house.

In our former report dated May 6, the objections to that measure were stated to be, 1st, That there was no precedent for it; 2d, That the manifests were so incomplete, as rather serving to embarrass than to facilitate the professed object of the measure proposed, namely the putting a check upon smuggling; and 3d, That it would give rise to delay in discharging cargoes, and be productive of misunderstandings between the merchants and the authorities.

Adhering to this opinion, we may say that there being no precedent for this measure is rather a Turkish reason why it should not be acceded to, but it is one which the Turks themselves very successfully put forward in opposition to questions or demands of foreign authorities which they are not disposed to grant. If we did not apprehend disadvantages from it, or if we thought it would contribute to the very desirable object of checking smuggling, it would most assuredly have our cordial support.

We stated the difficulties that were likely to arise from the uncertain information to be derived from the manifests, owing to a large proportion of the goods being consigned to order, to the uncertainty as to what portions might ultimately be destined in transitu to other ports in Turkey and beyond the Turkish Empire; and we added that this new control over the trade was in danger of spreading the evil of contraband even wider than it now exists.

It is well known that British trade with Turkey is now almost exclusively carried on by foreigners, in consequence of the great advantages enjoyed by Russians over British merchants in regard to duties; and such being the case it can hardly be doubted that were the proposed measure acceded to, manifests would soon be prepared in such a way as to answer all the purposes of contraband, which it is supposed that measure would check. In fact the more we consider the question the more we are convinced that the production of manifests to the custom-house would not realise the objects in view.

We stated in our former report that the Turkish employés for the prevention of smuggling were not recompensed in such a way as to make them faithful to their duties, and this consideration strengthens our objections to the placing more control than is now exercised, in the hands of the custom-house authorities, as it would not in our opinion tend to prevent smuggling, whilst on the other hand we feel convinced it would be a great impediment to the legitimate trade.

We have had an opportunity of talking over this question with some of the merchants appointed by their respective authorities to discuss it with the Grand Customer, who seem to coincide entirely in the view we have taken of it.

It is very true that the rights of having manifests deposited at the custom-house is exercised in other countries, but we do not admit that fact as a reason why it should be granted to the Turks, for otherwise many other changes would have to follow such an unlucky precedent.

2nd Article.—If vessels cannot approach the custom-house they may discharge in their own boats or in hired mahons at the custom-house wharf, but nowhere else.

This is a modification of the previous proposition,—but still defective. It would seem intended however to infringe upon the conditions of the Commercial Treaty, transhipment by the above means being entirely prohibited, which cannot be admitted. And why should vessels having goods to tranship be prevented from going alongside steamers and other vessels intended to receive them?

Restrictions of this kind would be very injurious to commercial interests, independent of the delay and unnecessary expense it would entail.

3rd Article.—Prohibition of removing goods at night. This is a very desirable measure, and we should be glad to see so unwarrantable a practice put a stop to.

4th Article.—Specifies that goods seized which have not been reported at the customs shall be restored to the owners on payment of the customs dues.

This Article requires explanation; for if goods were seized in an attempt to cheat the custom-house, something more than legal duties would surely be due on restoring them to the owners. Otherwise it would increase the practice of smuggling.

Having in the foregoing remarks stated our objections to the measures proposed for putting down smuggling, it becomes much more difficult to suggest means likely to attain that end; for it is seen, that under the best regulated Governments (not even excepting our own), that the system of smuggling, though it may be checked, cannot be eradicated. In order however to meet the wish expressed in the memorandum, that we should suggest "any other measures likely to attain the desired end of preventing smuggling," we proceed, with little confidence in our ability to do so, to offer a few remarks thereon.

The first step we conceive would be necessary is—that all the foreign Missions should agree upon the question of fine to be levied in cases of clearly proved acts of smuggling or contraband, without which no regulations can ever succeed. It would be equally necessary to form a scale or degree of fines proportionate to the nature, extent, or repetition of the offence.

We are told that the Austrian Treaties with the Porte specify that in cases of contraband double duties and no more shall be levied; and as far as we can learn no other nation has any clause or restriction on that head, consequently it is understood upon the principle of "being placed on the footing of the most favoured nation," that nothing beyond the Austrian Treaty can be enforced against any one.

Such a penalty is by no means a sufficient punishment for an offence of this nature, which from the laxity of the preventive measures may be many times repeated without detection.

We would recommend—

For a first offence, confiscation of half the property seized and condemned on clear evidence.

For a second offence, confiscation of the whole property seized and so condemned, &c.

For a third offence, confiscation and a further fine to an equal amount.

The difficulties of proof would certainly be very great, but not perhaps insurmountable.

We would suggest that a tribunal be formed to consist of an authority totally unconnected with the custom-house—a jury of honest experienced individuals, and no cause to be tried without the presence of the offender or of a dragoman from the authority to which he may belong.

The parties employed in detecting smuggling or those giving information thereof, to be liberally rewarded out of the proceeds of the confiscated property, in proportion to their exertions or services, which the jury might be allowed to estimate.

Finally, neither excuses nor influence nor favour should ever be allowed to defeat the ends of justice; and by way of warning or example we should have the names of the parties found guilty of smuggling exposed in a conspicuous part of the custom-house.

A few examples of this kind would go a great way towards remedying an evil which, besides its demoralizing effects, is undermining the resources of the Government and striking at the root of all honest trade.

Constantinople, July 2, 1844.

(Signed) T. N. BLACK.
WM. WOOD.
CHAS. HANSON.
CHAS. EDE.

No. 7.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 179.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1844.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your Excellency's despatch No. 226 of the 16th of October, with its several inclosures, respecting the wish expressed by the Porte, that the masters of British vessels arriving at Constantinople should be required to deliver to the Turkish custom-house the manifests of their cargoes.

I have to state to you in reply, that considering the exhibition of manifests is required by all European nations, and that the treaties between this country and Turkey do not afford any sufficient ground for resisting the wishes of the Turkish Government in this respect; and as moreover your Excellency does not appear to consider that any prejudice is likely to result from compliance, while the reasons urged against such compliance by the merchants are not very strong, Her Majesty's Government will be found well disposed to defer to the wishes of the Porte in this particular, so soon as the Porte shall have redressed the long standing grievances which we have repeatedly brought before them; but until that moment Her Majesty's Government desire that your Excellency should withhold the concession which under other circumstances they will be willing to make.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 8.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 246.)

My Lord, *Buyukdery, November* 4, 1844.

THE Austrian commercial missionary whose arrival I mentioned to your Lordship in my despatch No. 216 of the 2nd ultimo, called here this morning to take leave. He has been to Brussa and Salonica extending his inquiries and collecting information from persons of every description. Nothing has transpired to cast a doubt upon the real object of his journey, such as I have already stated it, on his own authority, to your Lordship. He starts the day after to-morrow on his return to Vienna.

I learnt from Baron Gheringer the result of his inquiries as to the present state of the Russian commercial negotiation with the Porte, and I find that his information was quite as uncertain and contradictory as mine. What makes me think that he does not on the whole anticipate an early decision, is that he would evidently like to have the Austrian proposition brought forward without waiting for the conclusion of the Russian Treaty. He manifested this wish even while he told me on the authority of Baron Neumann, that Count Nesselrode when in England had talked to him of the Convention being signed before winter.

Baron Gheringer made no attempt on this occasion to draw me into discussion on any commercial points. He appeared at the same time to

converse without reserve, and to seek to impress me with an idea that our commercial interests were not different. He confirmed what I had understood before, that the balance of trade between Austria and Turkey is greatly to the advantage of the latter country, being as two to one from the Danubian provinces and Bosnia into the Austrian States, and nearly in the same proportion from the empire at large.

I was also informed by Baron Gheringer that at Salonica in particular and generally in Roumelia, he had found ample confirmation of the advantage enjoyed by the Russian merchants in being exempted from the payment of the supplemental duties.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 9.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

No. 181.

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 7, 1844.*

I COMMUNICATED to the Board of Trade a copy of my despatch to your Excellency, No. 179 of the 20th ultimo, respecting the wish of the Porte that the masters of British vessels arriving at Constantinople should exhibit their manifests to the Turkish custom-house, and copies of your Excellency's despatch No. 211 of the 30th of September, together with an extract of so much of my despatch No. 173 of the 19th ultimo, to your Excellency, as relates to the commercial grievances under the Convention of 1838, which your Excellency has for some time been pressing on the attention of the Porte.

I now transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter which has been received from the Board of Trade, in reply to my communication of those documents, and also of a note from the Turkish Ambassador in this country, explaining the objections of the Porte to allowing foreigners to engage in the retail trade in the Turkish dominions.

Your Excellency will perceive from the letter of the Board of Trade, that the Board are desirous of receiving further information on these subjects; and I have accordingly to instruct your Excellency to endeavour to obtain and transmit to this Department such information as it may be in your power to procure, accompanied by any observations or suggestions which your Excellency may have to offer on this matter.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Mr. Macgregor to Mr. Addington.

Office of Committee of Privy Council for Trade, Whitehall, November 29, 1844.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d instant and its inclosures, being copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to the Porte, with the Porte's reply thereto, and also copy of a note from the Turkish Ambassador at this Court.

My Lords perceive that two practical questions are presented by the despatch of Sir Stratford, and the note from Aali Effendi, dated the 11th ultimo.

The first as to the acquiescence of this Government in the revival of the salt and opium monopolies; the second as to the right to carry on the retail trade in Turkey under the Treaty.

My Lords consider that the right of Great Britain to withhold her concurrence in the first claim and to urge the latter, is rendered sufficiently clear by the language of the Treaty: and they also conceive that there can be no concession or relaxation with regard to either of them, while any of the just claims of the British Government upon the Porte, which form the subjects of recent correspondence, remain unsatisfied.

But assuming for the moment that the time had arrived when those causes of complaint shall have been removed, my Lords conceive it may very possibly be open to discussion as a question of policy, whether either or both of the points to which this letter more particularly relates might not be conceded to the wishes of Turkey.

My Lords have not the means of forming a judgment, whether British interests of a commercial kind are involved in the abolition of the salt and tobacco monopolies and in the enjoyment of the retail trade, to such an extent as to render concession with regard to either or both improper; or whether there may be other objections to a relaxation which ought to be held conclusive. As at present advised, however, they are disposed to doubt whether such is the case. But they are not in a condition to use determinate language, until they shall have obtained such further information as may enable them to measure the practical importance of these questions; and this they trust it may be in the power of the British Ambassador, employing his means of conference with the Consuls and the mercantile community resident at Constantinople, to supply.

My Lords think it might be convenient if Lord Aberdeen should desire Sir Stratford Canning to furnish Her Majesty's Government with such particulars as he may be able to collect, bearing upon the policy of these concessions, and with his own view of it, either now or when the time shall have arrived at which the question of policy can be viewed on its own merits and apart from those collateral considerations with which it is now beset.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) J. MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Aali Effendi to the Earl of Aberdeen.

My Lord, *Bryanstone Square, le 11 Octobre, 1844.*

EN Turquie comme dans la plupart des autres pays, l'exercice du commerce en détail a appartenu de tout temps et exclusivement aux sujets de la Sublime Porte.

Chaque branche de ce commerce est divisée en corporations dans lesquelles on entre sous des conditions expresses.

Personne ne peut ouvrir une boutique sans posséder ce qu'on appelle le *Gerédik* ou patente, dont chaque corporation possède un nombre limité.

Ces corporations sont assujetties en outre à différens droits de fisc.

Depuis quelque temps, contrairement aux lois du pays et à l'esprit des Traités, des sujets étrangers ont ouvert des boutiques et des magasins, où ils vendent en détail des marchandises sans distinction.

Or il en résulte que les corporations composées des sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan, ne pouvant résister à une concurrence qui ne paye aucun droit, et qui n'est assujettie à aucun règlement, se trouvent forcées à se dissoudre. De là la souffrance d'un grand nombre de sujets, la diminution d'une branche très considérable des revenus du trésor public.

Outre ces inconvéniens commerciaux il y a des inconvéniens politiques qui ne sont pas moins graves.

En voici un entre plusieurs: les sujets de la Sublime Porte voyant les marchands étrangers plus favorisés qu'eux-mêmes, se verront contraints à se mettre sous la protection étrangère, iront dans d'autres pays pour s'y faire naturaliser, et reviendront exercer leur industrie dans

l'Empire Ottoman. Cela seul suffirait pour autoriser la Sublime Porte à demander la cessation d'un état de choses si anomal.

Afin d'atteindre ce but, la Sublime Porte s'est adressée plusieurs fois aux Représentans des Puissances; ses démarches sont restées sans résultat jusqu'à présent.

Et à la juste réclamation du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse on a semblé vouloir opposer un article du dernier Traité de Commerce qui concerne le commerce intérieur.

Il est vrai que cet article autorise les négocians étrangers à acheter et à vendre dans l'intérieur du pays les produits du sol et de l'industrie de l'Empire Ottoman. Mais il est aussi de la dernière évidence que cette autorisation ne peut s'étendre sur la vente en détail d'aucune marchandise, chose qui est entièrement distincte, et n'entre nullement dans aucun pays du monde dans la catégorie du commerce dit en gros.

Je crois superflu de vous dire, Milord, que le commerce intérieur dont l'exercice est permis en vertu de l'article sus-mentionné, aux sujets des Puissances étrangères, consiste naturellement dans l'achat et la vente en gros des produits du sol et de l'industrie de l'empire et dans l'empire; et la Sublime Porte n'a pas la moindre objection à y faire.

La Sublime Porte, convaincue par tant de preuves éclatantes des dispositions amicales du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique pour tout ce qui la regarde, me charge de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien adresser les instructions nécessaires à son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning, afin qu'il avise aux moyens de faire disparaître un abus si contraire à tous les principes de justice, et tellement en désaccord avec les stipulations des Traités existans.

Je suis, &c.,
(Signé) AALI.

No. 10.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 16.)

(No. 260.)

My Lord, *Buyukdery, November 20, 1844.*

THE Internuncio has received an instruction dated the 5th instant, relative to the pending commercial negotiations between Russia and the Porte, with orders to communicate its contents to Monsieur de Titow and myself. His Excellency made the communication to me this morning. He read me at the same time a despatch addressed by Prince Metternich to the Austrian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh. Considering the two despatches as applied to one and the same object, I was glad to learn from their general tenor that the Austrian Cabinet is prepared to support the measure eventually contemplated by Her Majesty's Government for the relief of British merchants suffering from the present inequality of the export and import duties in this country, and that the arguments employed by Prince Metternich are calculated to hasten the conclusion of a treaty between Russia and the Porte. The consequences of the proposed appeal to the First Article of the British Convention are described as likely to prove extremely embarrassing to Turkey, and the motives ascribed to Her Majesty's Government for determining on the adoption of that course are so connected with the interests of British commerce and the just expectations of Parliament, as to convey the impression of a necessity neither to be avoided nor to be resented.

I learn from the Internuncio that he has not yet made any communication on this subject to the Turkish Ministers, and that in executing his instruction with respect to the Russian Envoy, he has been confirmed in the previous supposition that the slow progress of the negotiation is owing to the unwillingness of Russia to sign a treaty which may be subjected to considerable modifications immediately after its conclusion. It appears at the same time from what Count Stürmer told me, that Russia is embarrassed by her present position, and that her Representative here does not attach any great importance, in so far as Russian interests may be

affected, to the proportions of export and import duties as paid by the Convention of Balta Liman, or modified by the Austrian suggestion.

It is possible that these ideas may have been thrown out by Count Stürmer as favourable to the views of his Court, and I am by no means satisfied that the Porte has not itself supplied the Russian Envoy with fair pretexts for delay, by insisting upon those pretensions which were originally advanced by Sarim Effendi in his overtures to me.

The recent change of Ministers at the Porte, and Chekib Effendi's unwillingness to enter upon serious business, have hitherto prevented me from repeating more impressively than I did to Rifaat Pasha, the admonition which your Lordship charged me to convey to the Ottoman Government in case their negotiation with Russia was not likely to come to an early conclusion.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 11.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 267.)

My Lord, *Buyukdery, November 30, 1844.*

A FRESH encroachment on the provisions of our Commercial Treaty with this country has received so determined a support from the Turkish Ministers, that I am compelled to bring it under your Lordship's immediate consideration. The case is this. In the neighbourhood of Constantinople there are tanneries protected by the Government and belonging to some of the principal officers in its service. For the use of these tanneries a yearly supply of valonea is required, and a scarcity of the article this year has led their proprietors to resort, with the aid of official authority, to the extraordinary measure of forcing the growers of valonea in certain districts to sell their produce exclusively to an agent appointed by them. From the same districts which are situated near the Dardanelles, a considerable portion of the valonea imported into England is obtained, and our merchants are in the habit of making advances to the peasants at the time when the taxes are collected, upon an agreement that their growth of valonea shall be sold to them in the proper season at a price to be previously settled by contract between the seller and the purchaser. All such contracts are annulled by the arbitrary proceedings of the Porte; and the injury thereby inflicted upon both the parties to them is manifest.

It appears moreover that the objectionable measure is intended to be permanent; and though in future years the contracts may be avoided and the supplies may be more abundant, our trade in valonea will be doubly affected—first, by the restrictions laid upon the grower; and secondly, by the uncertainty of the markets and the enhanced price of the article. A dangerous precedent will be also established with respect to other articles of commerce.

It is to no purpose that I have pointed out to Chekib Effendi the injurious consequences of this measure, the false principles which it involves, and its inconsistency alike with the Sultan's promises at Gulhané and with the engagements contracted by the Porte at Balta Liman.

His Excellency maintains that it is not a monopoly. Nor is it perhaps a monopoly in the fullest sense of that term. It has nevertheless the character and effect of a monopoly within the limited range of its operation; and if it were extended to other articles of Turkish produce, as no doubt in time it would be, one of the principal objects of the Commercial Convention and of the supplemental duties would be thereby defeated.

In former times valonea was one of the first articles of Turkish produce subjected to restrictions, which led to the imposition of extraor-

dinary internal duties. The same pretension of giving a precedency of supply to the tanneries of the capital was then put forward, and when the foreign merchants consented to pay an exorbitant duty they were no longer restricted in their purchases.

The tanneries for which the supply by pre-emption is now demanded, are situated at a place called Beykos, on the Bosphorus. From a comparison of the proposed quantity of supply, as stated by Chekib Effendi, with the returns published by MacCulloch, it results that on the lowest computation a fifth of the whole quantity of valonea imported annually into Great Britain for the use of all its tanneries and other manufactures, is required for the use of the single establishment at Beykos.

For your Lordship's more complete information I inclose herewith an extract of M. Pisani's report of his last communication with Chekib Effendi upon this subject. The language of the Turkish Minister is so decided, that I despair of producing any change in his determination without the support of Her Majesty's Government, though I shall not omit to lay the arguments on our side before him in a more complete and formal shape.

In the meantime I could wish there were less reason to attribute the arbitrary measure in question to motives of private speculation rather than to those of public necessity.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 11.

M. Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

CHEKIB EFFENDI m'a dit qu'il est décidé que le Gouvernement doit prendre tous les ans 25,000 quintaux de valonées des districts d'Aïvali et d'Azine (indépendamment de la dîme qu'il percevra en nature, au lieu de la vendre comme autrefois aux enchères publiques), pour les besoins indispensables de la tannerie de Beycoz. Chékib Effendi soutient toujours qui cette mesure étant une nécessité absolue pour le Gouvernement, ne peut pas être qualifiée de monopole, car il ne s'agit en aucune manière de favoriser ni un individu ni une certaine classe de négocians ou de spéculateurs. Il dit que la Porte fera rendre exactement par les villageois toutes les sommes d'argent qu'ils peuvent avoir reçues d'eux en avance.

No. 12.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(*Received January* 20, 1845.)

(No. 291.)

Buyukdery, December 23, 1844.

My Lord,

REFERRING to a former despatch, in which I brought to your Lordship's notice the restrictions laid upon the purchase of valonea in certain districts near the Dardanelles by order of the Turkish Government, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a letter which I have addressed upon that subject to the Ottoman Secretary of State. My previous impressions respecting the impropriety of a restriction which partakes so largely of the character of a monopoly, having been confirmed by communication with Her Majesty's Consul-General, I thought it due to the interests concerned in the exportation of valonea to declare my opinion in a more pointed and explicit manner than before. Should my representation unfortunately prove fruitless, I venture at least to hope that I shall enjoy the advantage of your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Sir Stratford Canning to Chekib Effendi.

Sir,

FURTHER information respecting the trade in valonea makes it my duty not to leave that question in the unsatisfactory state in which it was placed by your Excellency's last communication. The traffic in that article is a source of profit to our merchants here and of supply to the factories of Great Britain; nor could it be restricted, as your Excellency proposes, without prejudice to our rights under the Treaty of Balta Liman.

By the Second Article of that Convention it is expressly stipulated that "The subjects of Her Britannic Majesty or their agents, shall be permitted to purchase at all places in the Ottoman dominions (whether for the purpose of internal trade or exportation) all articles, without any exception whatsoever, the produce, growth, or manufacture of the said dominions; and the Sublime Porte formally engages to abolish all monopolies of agricultural produce or of any other article whatsoever." Nothing can be clearer than the terms of this clause, nothing more evident than the abandonment of every kind and degree of limitation as to place, article of produce, or monopoly. Not a shadow of pretext is left either for exception or reservation.

It appears nevertheless that the Porte intends to take annually 1380 tons of valonea besides the tithe in kind, from the districts of Awali and Azina, before the foreign merchants are allowed to make their purchases; and your Excellency argues that we have no right to complain, inasmuch as the quantity to be thus taken up is not for private use, but for that of the Government.

Now the quantity for which an exclusive pre-emption is claimed, amounts for the single tannery of Beykos, to a fifth of what is consumed in all the tanneries and other manufactures of Great Britain; and the districts whence this disproportioned supply is to be obtained, are precisely those in which the British merchants have already made their contracts of purchase.

With respect to the argument, if it hold good as to any one article, district, or specified quantity of produce, it is equally good in principle with respect to all; and those British interests which the Treaty was destined to secure at no small cost to Great Britain are entirely unprotected. The very Government which has bound itself to protect them conceives that its own wants, measured by its own discretion, suffice to dissolve the engagement. Such a proposition is too monstrous to be admitted broadly, even with respect to grain, an object of prime necessity in time of dearth; and even before the conclusion of the Treaty of 1838, when the Capitulations were as yet unmodified, valonea, though an occasional object of exaction, was never reckoned among the articles then classed as prohibited.

The truth is that the proposed measure is a restriction having the character, though not the full extent, of a monopoly: it is at variance with the spirit, intent and terms of the Commercial Treaty; it is onerous to British trade, unfair to the native growers, and prejudicial to the real interests of this empire. It is not even justified by any real necessity, and its most beneficial result would be cheapness, arising from a pre-emption excluding competitors and supported by authority.

I submit these remarks to your Excellency in the hope that they will be taken into serious consideration by the Ottoman Council, and contribute to the adoption of views more consistent with the engagements of treaty and the just expectations of my Government.

I avail myself, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 13.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(*Received January* 20, 1845.)

(No. 293.)
(Extract.)

Buyukdery, December 28, 1844.

I FOUND it advisable to explain once more the intentions of Her Majesty's Government respecting a reconsideration of certain points in the Commercial Treaty, and to specify distinctly the terms of settlement which the Porte was required previously to accept and to execute.

Chekib Effendi would not admit that there had been any infraction of Treaty. What we complained of, he said, arose from a different and as the Porte conceived, a more correct interpretation of certain passages in the Convention of Balta Liman. He intimated that other Governments were less inclined to dispute the Porte's interpretation of the Treaty, and that too little willingness had been shown in England to take the Porte's proposals on that subject into consideration.

My reply to these remarks or insinuations, though brief, was I trust conclusive. I reminded Chekib Effendi that the Treaty for some time after its ratification had been carried into effect in our sense; I denied the Porte's right to change the course of its execution on a mere one-sided interpretation of its terms. I justified the importance which Her Majesty's Government attached to the questions at issue, by referring to the known objects of the Treaty, to the large additional duties which it had imposed on us, to the extent of British commerce unequalled by that of any other nation, and to the duty of protecting Her Majesty's subjects embarking in commercial enterprises on the faith of public engagements. I stated several instances in which to my knowledge other Embassies here had made complaints similar to ours, and I presumed that discussions unknown to me, occasionally arose between the Porte and foreign Powers.

I then noticed what Chekib Effendi had said of our willingness to consider the Porte's proposed modifications of the Commercial Treaty. I told him that I had not only reported faithfully to your Lordship all that had passed between Sarim Effendi and myself on that subject in 1842, but that the very terms in which that Minister had couched and explained his propositions were transmitted at the time without reserve to your Lordship's Office; that with every disposition to consider amicably and even favourably the Porte's wishes, the real bearings and probable consequences of any proposed change must be previously ascertained by inquiry and research; that it was most desirable for the Porte to begin by placing its commercial relations with Russia on a footing more conformable to that of other Powers; that such reasonable motives for delay were not to be considered as tokens of ill-will; and that the apparently systematic manner in which the Turkish Ministry had recurred during the last two or three years to abusive practices, operating in direct contradiction to the spirit and intention of the Treaty of Balta Liman, had confirmed the obligation of proceeding with circumspection and a full knowledge of the nature and extent of the proposed alterations. I added distinctly, that in the present state of our discussions, and after the many reasons which the Porte had given us of late to complain of its injustice, Her Majesty's Government would not enter upon that subject till after the pending differences had been completely settled to their satisfaction, and I thought it prudent to discourage at once the idea that Her Majesty's Government in going even then into a negotiation agreeable to the Porte, would be prepared to admit any innovation which would invalidate the main principles and intent of the existing Treaty.

No. 14.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 13.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, February 6, 1845.

HER Majesty's Government entirely approve the course which your Excellency has adopted, as reported in your despatches, Nos. 267 and 291, of the 30th of November and 23rd of December, with reference to the attempt made by the Porte to interfere with the trade in the article of Valonea; and it may be useful that your Excellency should have it in your power to state to the Porte that Her Majesty's Government, having been made acquainted with the particulars of the case, entirely concur in your Excellency's opinion, that it presents a clear instance of infraction of treaty, and that they consequently require that the obnoxious regulation should be instantly withdrawn.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 15.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, January 25, 1845.

THE inquiries which your Lordship directed me to make respecting the probable effect to be produced eventually on British commercial interests by the operation of those amendments which the Porte has proposed to introduce into the Convention of Balta Liman, have been delayed by the difficulty of obtaining correct information relative to the same questions, as applied more particularly to our trade with the Danubian Principalities. It is only within the last few days that I have received the statement, which I had long expected, from a confidential agent employed in visiting those provinces, and obtaining the desired intelligence by personal investigation on the spot.

I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship's consideration the answers which I have received respectively from Her Majesty's Consul-General here, from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, and from several of the most intelligent merchants under their respective jurisdictions. They constitute five separate returns in all. Together with them I inclose two reports relating to Bulgaria, Moldavia and Wallachia. The first five papers contain specific answers to the queries, five in number, which I had founded on your Lordship's instruction. The last two, while in substance they reply to the same queries, embrace a wider range of information.

In transmitting these papers to your Lordship I am unwilling to swell their bulk with any additional remarks of my own. The Consuls and merchants are far better authorities than I can presume to be on the subjects in question. In general I would take the liberty of referring your Lordship to my despatch (No. 52) of March 18, 1843, observing at the same time that the experience of two more years has not diminished my conviction, that, however desirable it may be, and manifestly is, to relieve the Turkish Government from any incidental pressure occasioned by the operation of the Treaty, and not foreseen at the period of its conclusion, it is still more important to maintain unimpaired the principles of the Treaty, and to secure their effectual and unrelaxed application. Her Majesty's Government will best determine how far it may be practicable to accompany the acceptance of the Turkish proposals, either wholly or in part, with such limitations and securities as may prevent their gradual exten-

sion beyond the declared and recorded intention. I have more particularly in view the questions of monopoly, internal trade, and arbitrary exactions. The others are of less importance, and even as to the former it would be difficult to deny that the Porte has some legitimate motives for seeking a modification of her present engagements.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Replies of Mr. Consul-General Cartwright to the Queries submitted by Sir Stratford Canning.

Pera, January 7, 1845.

1. IF the privileges of the esnaffs or corporation trades were to extend to all articles of trade, whether of Turkish or of British produce and manufacture, the effect would be disastrous to British trade: such an extension has never existed with regard to British imports.

During the embassy of Sir Robert Liston, the Armenian company of muslin dealers pretended to have the exclusive privilege of *selling* white muslins in retail. The pretension was resisted and overcome. It was renewed in Lord Ponsonby's time, and again successfully resisted. It was then considered that if the retail sale of muslins was restricted to a privileged company of tradesmen the wholesale trade in British muslins would be equally restricted, and it was on that occasion signified to the Porte that British merchants would thereby be placed under the necessity of opening shops for the sale of their own muslins.

The Ottoman Capitulations and Treaties with foreign Governments contain no exceptional reference to esnaffs or privileged trading companies; and it was intended by the Convention of 1838 to protect trade against the pretensions of such companies.

2. The produce of salt in the Island of Malta is supposed not to be considerable, and the importation at Constantinople from thence has been trifling. Alum has not been an article of any note in the *English* trade. The same may be said of snuff. If the monopoly is not applied to those articles of *foreign* produce it is not supposed that the revival of it on those of Ottoman produce would affect British trade.

The trade in snuff of Albania has long been attended to in that province by Ionian subjects, and it may have increased since the promulgation of the Commercial Convention of 1838. The revival of the monopoly would most probably be injurious to them.

The term "ammunition" would appear to require explanation.

Monopoly or restrictions of any sort on wine and spirits, produce o Turkey, will serve to deprive Ionian subjects and shipping of advantages in that trade which they otherwise would enjoy.

3. The ports enumerated in the French Tariff do not appear to be connected exclusively with the exportation of silk produced in the district of Brussa. It was pretended in the year 1839 to confine the exportation of Brussa silk to the port of Constantinople, and strong representations were made against the pretension by the British and French merchants of Smyrna.

In principle it is highly objectionable, for it is contrary to the spirit and original intention of the Convention, as well as to former custom. If the purchasers of silk in the districts of Brussa are allowed to carry it by land or by sea to Smyrna, Constantinople, and other ports, the exportation of it cannot be considered as subjected to any limitation.

4. Custom duty is not chargeable on goods which are landed, not with a view to sale. Immediate payment of it would be an unnecessary outlay of money—would be contrary to former practice—as well as to the stipulations of the Capitulations and the Commercial Convention. Such a departure from rule and practice cannot be desired by the Porte but with a view to limit the privilege enjoyed by the British merchant of making his own declaration of importation. The concession would lead to constant disputes as well as frequent impositions, and would be made to interfere disadvantageously against the transit trade to the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia and the ports of the Black Sea.

The duty of 3 per cent. is one of import, that of 2 per cent. is an internal duty charged in lieu of the duties formerly levied after the sale of the imported goods. The immediate payment of the interior duty would be attended with most of the inconveniences to be apprehended from the payment of duty on goods landed not with a view to sale. It may be added that such a concession cannot on any consideration be granted until the commercial relations between Turkey and Persia are firmly settled, a great portion of British imports at Constantinople being sold for the Persian market.

5. If the measure be common to all nations, the manifest of cargoes arriving by British vessels in Turkish ports may be delivered by the masters to the Consuls, who would furnish the custom-house with copies.

The Ottoman authorities should not be allowed to make direct applications to the masters of vessels, but should represent on all matters connected with them to the Consul, who would prevent any deviation from the stipulations of treaties with regard to *importation*. The pretension of the Porte for the exhibition of manifests comes with a bad grace when it is considered that no proper note is taken at this custom-house of goods landed from foreign vessels, and that no satisfactory reference can be made to that office when disputes occur between masters of vessels and consignees of cargoes respecting the landing of goods.

When it is attempted to keep such a register a more serious evil may possibly be apprehended from the venality of ill-paid subordinate agents.

I have perused the replies of the merchants and I approve them.

(Signed) JOHN CARTWRIGHT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Replies of Mr. Consul Brant.

1st. IN the supposed case, the consumption of British manufactures would in my opinion diminish very considerably, from want of enterprise and intelligence on the part of the native dealers in supplying the buyers with those articles that are best adapted to their taste and wants, which is now done by Europeans engaged in the retail trade.

The exclusion of foreigners from the esnaffs would moreover facilitate illegal and secret combinations among the native dealers, who have frequently attempted to resort to such expedients for the purpose of keeping down the prices of goods, and of imposing their own terms on the importers. The rivalship of foreigners has hitherto prevented the success of such manœuvres, but if it were withdrawn, a system might be established which would tend in a great degree to destroy the freedom of commerce; and importers not finding their advantage in carrying on trade so fettered, would naturally relinquish it, and a falling off in the supply would be the result.

If exception were made in favour of those foreigners who deal in goods imported from Great Britain *and other countries* (as such exception would of course be general in favour of all Europeans), and they were allowed to sell imported goods in retail, matters remaining on the same footing as at present, no injury would be done to British commerce, manufactures, and subjects.

But independent of the injury which the contemplated change might cause to British interests, those of the great bulk of the Ionian subjects residing here would be most seriously affected by it.

Their retail dealings in the produce of Turkey are very extensive.

They are the chief manufacturers of wine and spirits, and are engaged in great numbers in handicraft trades of every description. If they were no longer permitted to exercise their professions, they would be compelled either to quit the country, as no means of gaining their livelihood would be left to them as protected subjects, or to become rayahs.

This would be a most serious evil; and as the free admission into the esnaffs, which has been granted them for so many years past, has encouraged them to invest a large amount of capital in their different undertakings, their exclusion from those corporations is highly to be deprecated. It is but fair, however, that they should pay the same charges to which the Ottoman members of the esnaffs are liable. This they have not done of late years; and hence I have little doubt arises the disposition now manifested by the Porte to confine the retail trade to its own subjects, over whom it has absolute controul.

Concessions on this point might satisfy the Turkish Government, and induce it to withdraw its pretension of excluding foreigners from the corporations.

2nd. Appaltos of salt, alum, and snuff, the produce of Turkey, exist, or in other words the excise duties on these articles are farmed. The revival of monopoly applied to them would not cause any loss to British trade, as they are not exported to England by British subjects. It is however to be feared that the sale of salt, alum, and snuff, the produce of other countries, would be impeded by the monopolists if imported into Turkey. They might, and no doubt would, arrogate to themselves the right of pre-emption, and intimidate other persons from purchasing; and thus the Treaty of 1838, which establishes the freedom of trade, would be indirectly infringed.

If this danger could be effectually guarded against, and free trade be assured (which I conceive would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, notwithstanding any stipulations to that effect), a monopoly of ammunition the produce of Turkey, which would include gunpowder, might prove advantageous to the trade in that article from England, as the British importer might be able to supply it of a better quality and at a lower price than the monopolist, and thus undersell him in his own market.

The creation of a monopoly of wine and spirits the produce of Turkey, would cause the ruin of a numerous class of persons employed in the manufactures of these articles at this place and in the neighbourhood.

Ionian subjects are the proprietors of no less than thirty-seven establishments of this description, while of the remaining ten, persons under the French and Austrian protection own two, and rayahs eight.

The capital invested by the former in buildings, utensils, and stock amounts to 7½ millions of piastres (£70,000), the greater part of which would be lost if such a monopoly were to be established.

The vineyards which supply the grapes are partly owned and cultivated by Ionians, who would no longer obtain remunerating prices for their produce, if a monopolist were the only buyer of it; and the native agriculturists would be placed in the same predicament as their neighbours.

It would in my opinion be a very dangerous experiment to revive old, or create new, monopolies. Restriction and free trade cannot co-exist, without giving rise to endless contentions between European and Turkish authorities; and as the measure proposed would be attended with probable injury to British trade, and with positive loss to Ionian subjects, the inexpediency of acceding to it is manifest.

3rd. No commercial or other objection lies against confining the exports of silk, purchased at or near Brusa, to the ports of Constantinople and Smyrna.

An attempt was made by the Porte a few years ago, to confine the exportation exclusively to the port of Constantinople, but it was successfully resisted. In order however to set the question entirely at rest, it would be advisable to name specifically the ports of exportation.

4th. The only prejudice that would be likely to result to British merchants from the immediate payment of the custom duty on goods landed, not with a view to sale, would be the loss of interest on the amount disbursed, which would be very trifling, seeing that the advance of duty

would be but for a short period, it being the interest of the merchants to re-ship the goods as quickly as possible.

This demand on the part of the Porte seems to me to be reasonable, inasmuch as no bonding system is established in Turkey, and goods landed in transitu must therefore be removed beyond the control of the custom-house officers.

The disburse of the 2 per cent. duty, if paid with the 3 per cent. on importation, would be longer, and the loss of interest consequently greater than on the amount of the transit duty; but I know of no other prejudice that British merchants would experience by paying both duties at once.

They might find it difficult to recover the 2 per cent. paid to one farmer of the customs, if, when the goods were exported, another person happened to be in office, and some arrangement should be made to meet such a contingency.

There is reason to believe that a portion only of the 2 per cent. duty is collected at present, but the measure proposed would prevent the payment of any part of it being evaded, as it now is, to the detriment of the fair trader.

The tenor of the latter part of this query would seem to imply, that the restitution of the 2 and 3 per cent. duties, if paid *at once*, was to be made on re-exportation, whereas I apprehend that the Turkish Government does not contemplate refunding more than the 2 per cent. in that case, the Third Additional Article of the Treaty of 1838 stipulating that 3 per cent shall be paid on "all merchandise imported into Turkey for the purpose of being transmitted to other countries."

As the payment of the 2 per cent. duty would be due on "goods being sold in the port of entry," I conclude that a clerical error has been committed in the last sentence of this query, by the omission of the word "not" before the word "goods."

5. Neither prejudice nor vexation would be occasioned to the British merchants and vessels navigating under the British flag, if the master were obliged to deposit the manifests of the ship cargoes, after having sworn to their correctness at the Consular office, on their arrival at and departure from any port in Turkey for the purpose of being exhibited to the collector of Customs.

Application to the legislature would, I conceive, be necessary to impose such an obligation on ship-masters.

Inclosure 3 in No. 15.

Replies of British Merchants at Constantinople.

Constantinople, January 6, 1845.

PREVIOUS to noticing seriatim the five queries submitted to our consideration by the Consul-General's letter of the 14th of November, it may perhaps not be irrelevant to state that experience has proved that any concession made in connexion with our rights and privileges, as established by treaty or by custom, has only served to injure our commercial interests; and therefore it is always dangerous to give way, even where no visible objection may be apparent, for there is then no guarantee why at a subsequent period the remnant of our privileges may not equally be attacked, and then every right we possess may be frittered away.

1st. This question, in connexion with its concluding remark, seems intended to apply exclusively to British trade, whereas its opening paragraph applies to foreign trade in general. Those who carry on such business as interferes with "esnaffs," or corporations, come under the class of shopkeepers and artisans, whose operations would be greviously injured were this measure carried into effect. Such a concession would

strike at the root of importation by British subjects, it being well known that many members of the esnaffs are already direct importers of goods, having their partners established in Great Britain, so that if they are allowed to be the sole retailers, they will naturally import their entire supplies, and thus exclude us from all participation in the import trade, to which the commerce of some of our countrymen has hitherto been solely confined. We may further remark, that the esnaffs in the enjoyment of this exclusive privilege would become a monopoly, which would cause a serious injury to British commerce and manufactures, as it would then be in their power to fix exorbitant prices on their goods, and thereby lessen the consumption that has rapidly and progressively followed the adoption of the Commercial Treaty; and it is not to be lost sight of, that the members of the Turkish Government are making great effort to become manufacturers, which is evident in their attempt to form establishments, and are seeking besides, by the opening of mines, to produce metals, coals, &c.; and should these attempts succeed, they would compel the esnaffs to purchase their products on their own terms, to the exclusion of others, and the prejudice of the public, which cannot easily be done, provided the freedom of trade is maintained in conformity with the existing commercial treaties.

2. As far as we know anything of the trade in Turkish salt, alum, and snuff, we consider that the loss of this privilege would be hardly of any consequence except to a few individuals residing perhaps in the immediate neighbourhood where they may be produced, including also that of ammunition, it being always clearly understood that we may import all such articles from other countries; *and freely sell them to whomsoever we may please without any restrictions on the part of the Porte.* But the trade in wine and spirits (the produce of Turkey) stands in a very different position. The consumption by all who are not Mussulmans, has become, not a luxury, but a positive necessary, not only to rayahs, but to most residents in Turkey; we however think that there are other besides commercial reasons for opposing a renewal of the monopoly in them, for it may be supposed that the monopolists would only send spurious articles, and thereby undermine the public health; and further, it would soon put an end to the efforts now in progress to produce superior qualities of wines, which it is only reasonable to expect, may ere long become articles of export, and eventually of importance to the prosperity of the empire. Attempts like these to infringe upon our privileges convey to our minds a conviction, that they are designed; not in the interests of the Turkish Government, but rather for the personal advantage of a few individuals connected with the administration, who for a consideration are desirous to limit the sale of wine and spirits to a class of low tavern keepers, which latter, we have reason to think, are the abettors at this attempt at monopoly.

3. When this question was under discussion between the English, French, and Turkish Commissioners, the former thought it necessary to consult the Smyrna merchants, whose opinion was adopted by them; meanwhile the French commissioners thought fit to adopt their own views. As regards ourselves, Constantinople is the most convenient outlet for silk the produce of Brussa and its environs; but there being other interests involved in the question, we take leave to observe, that the same motives which led us to adhere to the opinion of the merchants of Smyrna, shews us the propriety of again referring it to them; and this independent of the consideration of our objection to cede a point, which had been given by our foreign colleagues, contrary to the principle upon which the arrangements of the Tariff had been formed, namely, that we should act in unison on all points.

4. Serious inconvenience and prejudice would arise from the adoption of this scheme.

(1.) The disbursement of a considerable sum without any compensation for such an outlay. Owing to the great fall of prices of nearly all goods since the Tariff was made, the duties are no longer 3 and 2 per cent., but positively upon an average 5 and 3½ per cent., which renders them extremely oppressive to importers, because they have to disburse

them in most instances twelve months, or even a longer period, before the goods are sold and the proceeds encashed.

(2.) Subsequent disputes with the Turkish authorities on applying for restitution.

In other countries, goods are deposited in bonded warehouses, and the merchant is not called upon to pay the duties until he sells or retires them, and when they are exported, no duty is paid. So far from our deriving similar advantages in this country, the reverse would seem to be the object of the proposition, that is, that we should begin by immediately paying the import duties on goods landed, not *even with a view to sale.* By the foregoing remarks it is plainly shown, that the British merchants, as importers, would materially suffer by the exaction of the import and internal duties on the landing of the goods; and it would be still more inadmissible as regards merchandise destined for the Provinces of Wallachia, Moldavia, and all foreign ports, on which the Turkish Government have no right whatsoever to claim duties. We trust however that enough has been said to prove impossibility of our consenting to such a measure.

We are told of frequent meetings of commissioners for the purpose of fixing the conditions upon which Russia at length enters partially into our Commercial Treaty: but their progress seems, as might naturally be expected, very slow, and we have reason to believe that whenever they may be concluded, they will be much in their favour in comparison with our own.

Meanwhile, however, we see their trade with Great Britain, in regard to exports thither carried on in respect of the 9 per cent. internal duties, upon the same conditions as heretofore; namely, that in some districts they are still free from that charge, as well as the cultivators, from whom they buy their produce—and this we state advisedly.

5. In following up our former reports respecting the production of manifests at the custom-house, we beg leave to observe, that if Her Majesty's Government at home could compel the masters of British and foreign ships to be furnished (under a severe penalty) with true or correct manifests of their cargoes, duly attested, when they apply for their clearances on their outward voyage; and that Her Majesty's Representatives in this country could enforce the exhibition of the said manifests at the British cancellerias, by the masters of the British and foreign bottoms, it might be a source of advantage to British merchants, instead of prejudice and vexation; provided always that the Turkish authorities possessed the power, and could be relied on to secure the due discharge of all vessels; but unless this control could be exercised by Her Majesty's officers *over foreign bottoms laden in British ports*, we certainly could not approve of its being exacted solely from British ships, as that would doubtlessly promote the carrying trade of foreign shipping to the great detriment of our own.

We cannot conclude without expressing our feelings regarding our position as Englishmen, compared with those of other nations: whilst we partake in a small degree only of the trade in this country with England, it falls severely on us that we should be made the instruments of those experiments to our great annoyance and pecuniary prejudice, solely to advance the interests of subjects of other countries, who are in possession of near the whole of our natural commerce. When they are subjected to any new regulations which they *cannot violate*, and which are ascertained to operate favourably to all parties, we shall then most readily concur in every measure leading to promote the general good.

(Signed) T. W. BLACK.
CHARLES EDE.
WM. WOOD.
CHAS. HANSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 15.

Replies of Messrs. C. Whittall and Co. of Smyrna.

1st. THIS query applies to two distinct classes of tradesmen—the retail shopkeeper and the artisan. With respect to the former we have to state that the European shopkeepers of Smyrna have introduced into Turkey numerous articles of European manufacture previously unknown, of which the consumption is become of considerable amount. Birmingham manufactured goods may be cited as an instance. They have also introduced a greater variety of the goods previously known, and thereby increased the consumption, neither of which would in all probability have occurred had the trade been confined exclusively to natives. We are therefore of opinion, that were Europeans to be excluded from the retail trade, the commerce between this country and England would be injured. If exception were made in favour of imported British goods, the injury to the trade would no doubt be modified in some degree; but the transactions of a shopkeeper being limited to goods imported from England, to the exclusion of all other goods, would be a strange anomaly in trade, and might lead to inquisitorial proceedings on the part of the Turkish authorities, to which a British subject ought not to be liable.

With regard to artisans, say carpenters, joiners, tailors, shoemakers, tavern-keepers, &c., their exclusion from the Esnaffs, or prohibition to pursue their professions, would necessarily be their ruin, and would put a stop to the improvements which they have introduced into this country. What may be the number of persons, and the amount of property engaged in such trade, in Smyrna, we are not informed.

2d. There are no shipments made from this country to England of salt, alum, snuff, wine, spirits, or ammunition, the produce or manufacture of Turkey, nor is it likely that these articles will ever become objects of shipment to England, or of trade by British subjects with any other country; therefore monopoly being applied to them would not cause any loss to British trade. But it must be observed that wine, spirits, salt, snuff, and ammunition are imported into this country from England and her colonies by British subjects and that, were the monopoly of the Turkish articles to interfere with the free sale and consumption of the imported articles in Turkey, the trade in the latter would seriously suffer, or more probably, would cease.

Previously to the Commercial Convention of 1838 there were two descriptions of monopoly in this country, one known by its proper name of "monopoly," the other known under the denomination of "appalto."

The Monopoly, so called, was a privilege exercised by the Government with respect to opium, and by holders of permits or teskérés granted to them by the Government or its agents, and by governors of districts with respect to other descriptions of produce, of being the sole purchaser from the producer. This description of monopoly may be denominated "the exclusive right of purchase." It was ruinous to the cultivator, who was obliged to sell his produce at the price accorded him by the monopolist, and it was most onerous to the exporter of Turkish produce, who had to submit to the prices required by the monopolist.

The other description of monopoly, called Appalto, was a privilege granted to an individual, constituting him the sole seller to the consumer of the article described in his appalto, and he assumed that his privilege included the produce of foreign countries and imported thence into Turkey, as well as the produce of Turkey; thus, being the sole seller of the article for consumption, he became the sole purchaser from the importer; and as the monopolist would not pay a remunerating price to the importer, the importation ceased, and the consumption was confined to the Turkish production. Therefore, if the monopoly contemplated be an appalto, it would materially interfere with the trade in the articles in question between this country and England, unless it be distinctly understood that the monopoly shall not in any manner prevent the unrestricted sale and consumption of the articles imported from foreign countries.

3d. The article in the French Tariff referred to is as follows:—

"Quand les négocians auront acheté sur les lieux, soit par eux-mêmes, soit par leurs ayant-cause, les produits du sol ou de l'industrie de la Turquie, destinés à être expédiés dans leurs pays, il les feront venir à Constantinople, Smyrne, Salonique, et autres échelles principales. Cependant vu la difficulté du transport et pour abréger les distances, certaines marchandises aboutiront à des échelles où il se trouvera des douaniers établis par le Gouvernement Ottoman."

Thus it is seen that the ports at which Brussa silk is allowed to be exported are not expressly defined in the French Tariff. When the Convention of 1838 came into operation, an attempt was made to confine the export of Brussa silk, and we believe all the silk produced in the neighbourhood of Adrianople, to the port of Constantinople, based on the last paragraph of the above-recited Article. The attempt was successfully resisted by his Excellency Lord Ponsonby; and we understood that the question was set at rest by the ports of export being named. Seeing that the question is again brought forward, we fear that the object is again to attempt to confine the silk trade to Constantinople; and if so, we trust that such a violation of the Convention will not be acceded to. But if the object is, as stated, to confine the export of silk to the port of Constantinople and to other principal ports in the Ottoman dominions, there can be no objection to such restriction; on the contrary, we consider it desirable, as a means of preventing smuggling.

4th. The only prejudice that could result to British merchants from the immediate payment of the custom and internal duties on goods imported, say the 2 and 3 per cent. duties, would be the interest on the amount of the duties, between the time of landing and the period when it is now usual to pay them, which may be estimated at three months for the 3 per cent. duty, and a somewhat longer period for the 2 per cent. duty.

Considering it, as we do, the interest of the British merchant that every facility be afforded to prevent evasion of the duties, we are of opinion that the immediate payment of both the 3 per cent. import duty and the 2 per cent. internal duty is desirable, and as well on goods landed with a view to exportation to a foreign country, as on goods landed with a view to sale, it being distinctly understood that the amount of duties so paid shall be refunded on all goods exported to a foreign country. But we strongly recommend that the two duties continue to be kept perfectly distinct, to prevent the possibility of the import and internal duties being in the course of time considered as one duty on import of 5 per cent. It might be well that, with this view, the two duties be not payable to the same receiver, or should there be only one receiver for both duties, then that they be not paid on the same day.

5th. No prejudice or vexation could arise from captains of British vessels being obliged to deposit their manifests inwards in the British Cancelleria before they commenced discharging, and their manifests outwards the day previous to their departure. The customer would of course be allowed to have access to the manifests so deposited, and to take copies of them in the Cancelleria, should he think proper.

Vexations might, and we think would, arise from captains being obliged to deliver their manifests to any Turkish authority, otherwise than through the medium of the Cancelleria.

Inclosure 5 in No. 15.

Replies of Mr. Perkins of Smyrna.

1st. THE restricting of the retail trade to natives, and the exclusion of all foreigners from taking part in the Esnaffs, would I consider be prejudicial to British trade and to British subjects, conceiving as I do that the designation of foreigners must apply to Armenians under the Russian protection, as well as to Ionians, and the subjects of other European powers.

In what concerns British trade, it would be injurious in this respect,

because the measure would affect a set of intelligent dealers possessing an intimate knowledge of the habits, tastes, and wants of consumers in Turkey, by which they have been instrumental in giving great extension to several branches of the import trade, each shop turning round yearly a capital of from 100,000 piastres to 1,000,000 piastres.

The nature of this trade and the mode in which it is carried on, is such, that my opinion is, their place could not be supplied by mere natives, and the consequences of exclusion would be a diminution of this thriving business, which embraces along with it British manufactured cottons, woollens, hosiery, hardware, and most other articles of British industry.

As regards British subjects, it is known that a great number of individuals now domiciliated in Turkey, are engaged in the retail trade of articles the produce of the country, as well as of goods imported from Europe, and in exercising also handicraft trades. Thus, any attempt to restrict these branches of industry to natives alone, would create and bring on these much distress.

In European states foreigners are permitted to settle and exercise most branches of industry, upon the conditions imposed on natives. The like privilege can surely be claimed for Europeans in Turkey; but I think that all those who avail themselves of it should be subject to pay the same dues which are levied upon the native retail dealers.

I do not think that the injury to British trade and British subjects would be modified by any exception in favour of British goods. It might partially protect British commerce; but it would confer no benefit on that class of British subjects who are carrying on business in articles the produce of Turkey and those engaged in the handicraft trades.

2nd. It may be assumed that at no period has British capital, to any extent, been employed in the trade of salt, alum, or snuff, the produce of Turkey; nor, from the nature of these articles, does it appear that any limitation of the trade in them would be injurious to British interests. The revival of the monopoly of salt, alum, and snuff, the produce of Turkey, might therefore be conceded, in so far as British interests are actually concerned, and in so far as I can judge, even prospectively, of the matter. The strict abolition of all other monopolies cannot however be made contingent upon conceding the right of monopoly for salt, alum, and snuff, inasmuch as that is fully secured by the Treaty of 1838, without any limitation or reserve.

In respect to ammunition, monopoly as applied to gunpowder the manufacture of Turkey, would, I conceive, interfere indirectly, if not directly, with the free trade of that article from England; I cannot at least see how monopoly in the one case and free trade in the other case can co-exist. The trade in English gunpowder deserves full protection, the importation into Smyrna alone having for the last three years averaged 1200 barrels, and there have been periods when the quantity received has been much larger. The same observations apply to the trade in lead shot.

With regard to wines and spirits the produce or manufacture of Turkey, this question in connection with monopoly of the two articles involves the consideration of interests of some magnitude. Her Majesty's Ionian subjects are known to be deeply engaged in this trade, and the wine and spirits manufactured by them greatly exceeds the quantity which the rayahs or natives manufacture; but I am not sufficiently acquainted with the nature and detail of these operations to admit of my giving an accurate opinion upon the effects of restriction or monopoly on this important branch of internal trade.

3rd. There would be no objection, in order to repress as much as can be the practice of smuggling, to confine the shipment of silk purchased at or near Brussa to certain ports, but it is important that these ports be most clearly defined and designated. Without such designation the right of Smyrna to participate in this trade may be sacrificed, for it is notorious that various expedients have been resorted to, in order to make Constantinople the centre of the silk operations, and to deprive Smyrna of this trade. The tendency of any new regulation as respects silk requires

therefore to be vigilantly watched, and I consider the application of the text of the French Treaty to this question (so far as regards its details) as objectionable. The objection is grounded on the fact that a construction is even now being put upon one clause of the French Treaty in the Article respecting the "ports at which goods the produce of Turkey are to be shipped," which is at variance with the obvious intent and meaning of it.

4th. To the former part of this query which must be considered to refer to goods *bona fide* in transitu, I would say that the immediate payment of the custom duty upon goods landed "not with a view to sale," would be a burden upon trade, principally on account of the disburse which the merchant will thereby incur, without any obvious advantage being secured to the revenue, I know of no other prejudice likely to result from such payment of the custom duty, but as the case of goods so arriving is rare in Smyrna, whilst it must be one of frequent occurrence at Constantinople, the highway for the Black Sea trade, it is there where the question can be best answered.

To the latter part of the query which relates to the payment of the 2 per cent. duty at once, or together with the 3 per cent. duty, upon importations into Turkish ports, restitution to be made of the 2 per cent. in case of re-exportation, the goods *not* being sold, at the port of entry (which I take to be the meaning) I would strongly oppose this immediate payment of the 2 per cent. duty, conceiving it would be prejudicial to British commerce on these grounds. As there can be no security that it would ever be restored were the goods to be re-exported, under the present system of farming the revenues, the individual who receives the duty for his own account one day may be out of office and leave the place the next one, and his successor is not answerable for any obligation he may have incurred. In my opinion, no pledge given by the Government to induce the cession of the first point, could in the least be depended upon by the merchant.

As it would subject the importer of goods to an inconvenient and prejudicial disburse, when goods have to lay any time on hand, which disburse from the high valuation put upon various articles of British manufacture, would be equal in many instances to 3½ and 4 per cent.

As viewing the measure prospectively with its tendencies, no possible good, but ill effects are likely to result from the amalgamation of the two duties. Upon this consideration that in process of time, and after being levied by one department for any period of years, the two duties would insensibly come under one head, and whereas 3 per cent. has hitherto been the basis of all our commercial treaties, there would be danger of seeing the conditions of any future convention based upon 5 per cent.

5th. The arrangement the least vexatious in its operation as regards the exhibition of ships' manifests, and what may at the same time be most efficacious for the purpose of protecting the revenue, would be, that the captains of all vessels arriving at a Turkish port, be obliged to deposit their manifests in the British cancellaria, and for the customer to receive from that office a copy of that document which shall specify the nature of the cargo, with all other necessary particulars.

Inclosure 6 in No. 15.

Report of Mr. F. W. Calvert on the state of Commerce in Bulgaria.

Constantinople, January 16, 1845.

THE favourable geographical situation and fertility of the soil of Bulgaria, combined with the industry and sober habits of its numerous population—all landed proprietors, and equally interested in the common welfare of their country—will enable it eventually, in a commercial point of view, completely to out-rival the neighbouring Provinces of Moldavia

and Wallachia, the produce of which is but the fruit of forced labour exacted from the peasants by the Boyars, who being proprietors of the soil, alone reap all the benefits thereof.

Before the publication of the Hatti Sheriff of Gulhané, the Bulgarian peasantry were but little better off than their neighbours, for though they were not slaves, they were thoroughly disheartened by numerous vexatious impositions, under the form of monopolies and arbitrary fines, so that they seldom attempted to produce more than was necessary for their sustenance and the payment of their taxes.

A change for the better has been since gradually wrought in their condition, the spirit of enterprise not being wanting when encouragement was given; but the high rates of duty established by the late Commercial Treaty, especially on exports, when compared with those of Wallachia and Moldavia, by placing the country in a false position, prevented trade for a long time from receiving the impulse which might have been expected from the abolition of monopolies.

The farmer of the customs of Bulgaria in 1843 being a commercial man, was enabled fully to appreciate the great impulse given to the Moldavian and Wallachian trade by the low rates of duty established in those principalities, as well as the stagnation of that of Bulgaria, occasioned by the comparatively high duty; he consequently conceived the idea of assimilating the rates of duty levied by his agents to those of the neighbouring provinces.

The consequences fully answered his most sanguine expectations; for besides putting a stop to the contraband trade, the commerce of Bulgaria that year was increased four-fold. The same system having been continued in 1844, both the imports and exports increased to ten times what they were in 1842.

From the approximate estimation based on the returns of tithes of last year's crop in Bulgaria—after deducting the quantity necessary for the internal consumption of the country, there remained for exportation about 580,000 imperial quarters of wheat, and 130,000 imperial quarters of other grain.

In the course of a few years, by the proper encouragement of trade and protection of the peasantry from arbitrary and vexatious measures, this province will be able eventually to export annually upon an average 3,000,000 imperial quarters of grain, the favourable position of the country placing every district within a comparatively short distance from a shipping port.

The great increase of trade does not seem to have had much effect towards ameliorating the condition of the Turkish population of Bulgaria, their naturally indolent character preventing them from profiting by this state of affairs; they are consequently very jealous of their Christian countrymen, who having reaped all the benefits take great pains to conceal the fact.

It is impossible to form any precise idea as to the consumption of British manufactures in Bulgaria, as they come into the country through so many different channels—though the greater part are purchased in the Constantinople market.

It would appear, however, according to the best information, that the value of the quantity imported amounted last year to about £100,000.

This quantity might be increased almost indefinitely by the adoption of proper measures for supplying the Bulgarian peasants with articles more suited to their wants and tastes than those actually imported. Of this circumstance the Austrians seem to have become aware of late, and their trade is rapidly increasing in consequence. In 1843, 1270 bales of Austrian manufactures were imported into Bulgaria; this number was increased in 1844 to 5,300 bales of the estimated value of £424,000.

The exports of Austria from Bulgaria, consisting chiefly in grain, amounted last year to the value of about £57,600.

The trade of Russia with Bulgaria is very insignificant, the imports and exports not averaging more than £2000 per annum.

No just idea can be formed of the comparative operation of the

British and Russian Tariffs from the actual state of trade in Bulgaria, as the few merchants under Russian protection can derive no advantage by claiming the benefit of their tariff, the voluntary concessions made by the customer rendering such an application perfectly useless.

One fact alone deserves particular mention in connexion with the Russian Tariff—namely, the omission therein of any specification regarding the duty on wheat or any other grain; consequently, not long since, when Russian merchants exported a cargo of wheat from Bulgaria, the customer was allowed to levy the whole 12 per cent. export duty, the Russian authorities invariably declining to interfere in favour of their merchants, or to allow them to claim the benefit of the clause fixing 3 per cent. duty *ad valorem* on all goods not specified therein. From this circumstance it is evident that Russia puts every obstacle in the way to prevent Bulgaria entering into competition with her own markets.

It would be desirable that on a renewal of the Commercial Treaty, the facilities afforded to trade by the low rates of duty actually levied in Moldavia, Wallachia, and Bulgaria, should still be continued, and even extended to all the Turkish Empire, as it would not only be placing British merchants on a footing of equality with the Russians, but also give an impulse to trade equally advantageous to the British merchant and the Turkish Government.

The exhibition of ships' manifests to the authorities at the port of entry is a measure which every straightforward merchant ought to desire to see adopted, as by the prevention of smuggling he will be no longer subject to be undersold by unlawful dealers, who now possess an unfair advantage.

The necessity for the payment of the import duty on goods landed even without a view to sale, might be done away with by the establishment of bonding warehouses at different ports, by which great facility would be afforded to trade, and the revenue of the customs guaranteed. Such establishments would be essentially desirable for the ports of Routschouk and Toultcha on the Danube.

The monopoly of the retail trade of salt, alum, snuff, tobacco, arms, ammunition, wine, and spirits, might be conceded without much prejudice being caused thereby to British commerce, provided that the privilege of wholesale trade be still retained, a certain quantity of each article being specified to establish the difference between the wholesale and the retail trade.

The exclusion of foreigners from the esnaffs and retail trade would prove injurious to the import trade. As it is however unjust that those who pay no contribution to the expenses of the corporations should be allowed to come into competition with and undersell those who being subjected to heavier expenses, are no longer on a footing of equality with them. It would be therefore right that all foreigners desiring to form part of a corporation or enter into the retail trade, should obtain a special licence and contribute towards the general expenses at the same rate which shall have been fixed and equally paid by all the other members, whether Turkish subjects or foreigners.

It is highly to be desired for the interest and proper development of British trade, that advantage should be at once taken of the opening now presenting itself for a very extensive consumption of British manufactures, and of which Austria is fast availing herself; the agents of her steamboats on the Danube acting as Consular officers for the protection of her interests. It would therefore be advantageous for British interests that a Consul should be established at Routschouk, which is the capital of Bulgaria, and Vice-Consuls at Widin, Toultcha, and Varna; at which latter place both Austria and France are already represented.

By the choice of efficient persons, Englishmen possessing commercial knowledge and speaking different languages, but especially Turkish and Greek, the trade of Great Britain with Bulgaria, would soon be put on a footing which would defy all competition.

(Signed) F. W. CALVERT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 15.

Report of Mr. F. W. Calvert on the state of Commerce in Moldavia and Wallachia.

Constantinople January 15, 1845.

THE great resources and advantageous position of these two provinces, are peculiarly favourable for the production and exportation of grain.

The wants of their populations would, under a better system, render them large consumers of British manufactures.

Notwithstanding the many and manifest disadvantages under which they labour, both the import and export trade of these countries have of late received an extraordinary impulse, as may be seen by the following statement.

IMPORTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

	Estimated value of Manufactures.	Iron and Tin.
1837	£47,000	Tons 460
1843	160,000	,, 1400
1844	250,000	,, 1800

EXPORTS TO DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

	Wheat.	Other Grain.
1837	Impl. Qrs. 170,000	Impl. Qrs. 150,000
1843	,, 450,000	,, 420,000
1844	,, 700,000	,, 500,000

The principal reasons which may be assigned for this rapid increase in the trade of the country, are:—

1st. The establishment of the free port of Galatz in Moldavia, and that of Ibraila in Wallachia, where all goods are admitted free of duty to which they are subjected only when embarked for exportation, or being sent for consumption into the interior of the country.

2nd. The great advantage afforded to commerce, by the equal and low rate of the import and export duties, which amount to about 3 per cent. alike for all and every description of goods and produce, the different nations being treated on a footing of perfect equality.

3rd. The contraband trade on the frontiers of Austria, which has been much facilitated since the abolition of quarantine between the principalities and that country, into which great quantities of British cotton twist have been introduced of late.

The disadvantages against which trade has still to contend, are:—

1st. The difficulty of passing the entrance of the Danube, in consequence of the bar in the river at Sulina never being efficiently cleared by the agents of the Russian Government, which is interested in putting all possible obstacles in the way of a trade which already causes much prejudice to her ports in the Black Sea.

2nd. The vexatious quarantine regulations, established from political motives in the principalities, and directed against all arrivals from Turkey or generally up the Danube.

3rd. The vicious agricultural system of the country and the condition of the peasantry, which is one of most abject and degraded slavery.

4th. The difficulty and expence attending on the transport of produce from many fertile districts to the shipping ports, and which might easily be avoided, by rendering navigable some of the rivers, amongst others the Pruth and Sereth.

5th. The necessity (to avoid quarantine) of submitting all bales of goods packed in tarpaulins, shipped from Great Britain for Wallachia or Moldavia, to be plumbed by the Russian Consulate at the shipping port. The French and Austrian Governments having avoided this by causing their custom-houses to affix their own seal to such bales or parcels. It would be desirable that Her Majesty's Customs should adopt the same

course, and thus free British merchants from paying heavy charges and being under the control of Russian agents.

The import trade from Austria to the principalities consists chiefly of wrought iron ware, woollen cloths, furs, silks, and cotton manufactures; those introduced by the Danube steamers last year were alone of the value of upwards of £500,000, besides which merchandize for at least an equal amount was brought overland, making a total value of imports of upwards of £1,000,000.

The export trade to Austria from the principalities consists principally of horned cattle, horses, hogs, hides, flax, wool, tallow, and wheat, and amounted last year to about the value of £580,000; besides this, about 180,000 imperial quarters of wheat, and 230,000 imperial quarters of wheat were exported to Trieste, the value of which being about £236,000, makes a total value of exports of about £816,000.

The trade of Moldavia and Wallachia with Russia is but small compared to that with Great Britain and Austria.

The imports from Russia consisting chiefly of wrought and unwrought iron, hardware, furs, leather, ropes, salt-fish, caviar, and flour, for the value of about £40,000 annually. Of this about three-quarters is introduced overland, and the remainder by the Danube.

The exports to Russia are all by the Danube, and consist chiefly in wine and dried fruits, for the value of about £9,000 annually.

It is certain that had the Commercial Treaty of Balta Liman been enforced in these two principalities, trade would never have made such rapid progress. The two Governments have been fully enabled to convince themselves of this fact, by witnessing the comparative stagnation of commerce in the neighbouring Province of Bulgaria until last year, and which was to be attributed in great part to the baneful effects of the very high export and import duties, as compared with those of Moldavia and Wallachia.

In conclusion, it will be necessary to remark that it is highly desirable for the interest of British trade, that the Vice-Consular establishments at Galatz and Ibraila should be placed on quite a different footing to what they actually are, it being an incontestable fact that the establishment of almost every foreign Consul residing there is much more efficient and calculated to inspire confidence and respect than those of the British Vice-Consuls.

(Signed) F. W. CALVERT.

No. 16.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 48.)

(Extract.) *Constantinople, March* 5, 1845.

WITH respect to those complaints which have been sent up from the outports, I have obtained the necessary orders for their redress, and I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of two out of the number of letters prepared for that purpose. Copies are added of the despatches by which I transmit them to the respective Consuls. Other letters of similar purport are ready for transmission to each place from whence a complaint properly substantiated has been addressed to me.

The composition of the Turkish letters was attended with much difficulty and vexation, as Chekib Effendi was bent to all appearance on making them the means of facilitating his own views with respect to a future modification of the Commercial Treaty.

Your Lordship will I trust be satisfied that nothing really objectionable now remains in them, and that any expression tending to mislead is sufficiently counteracted by my letters to the Consuls, copies of which are to be deposited in the hands of the Turkish Minister.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

The Grand Vizier to the Governor of Candia.

(Traduction.) *Le 25 Sefer*, 1261 [*March* 3, 1845].

SON Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre a présenté un tacrir par lequel il a exposé qu'il a été défendu aux sujets Anglais à la Canée et à Candie de vendre en détail des grénailles, de la poudre à canon, du plomb, du café, et du tabac, et il demande qu'il ne leur soit pas empêché de vendre et d'acheter les objets susdits.

Bien que le commerce de détail et de Esnafliq (être membre de corporation) soient en Turquie des choses qui d'après l'ancien système appartiennent particulièrement aux sujets de la Sublime Porte, et qu'il soit également clair que les productions du tabac ainsi que du sel et de l'alun qui sont dans la même catégorie, sont des fermes du Gouvernement assujetties à de nombreux réglemens spéciaux; cependant il est né des difficultés entre les deux Gouvernemens de l'interprétation de quelques termes et du sens du Traité de Commerce conclu avec le Gouvernement d'Angleterre, et il est devenu nécessaire de permettre aux sujets du Gouvernement susmentionné d'acheter et de vendre les objets susdits jusqu'à ce que, ces difficultés une fois levées, je vous envoye une autre lettre de la manière qui sera combinée et arrêtée avec l'Ambassade susmentionnée.

Par conséquent votre Excellence permettra à l'égard des sujets du Gouvernement susmentionné d'acheter et de vendre les susdits objets, comme il a été dit plus haut, temporairement, et c'est à cette fin que je vous ai écrit et que je vous expédie cette lettre à la réception de laquelle votre Excellence mettra ses soins à agir de la manière y énoncée.

(L.S.) REOUF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

The Grand Vizier to the Pasha of Adana.

(Traduction.) *Le 25 Sefer*, 1261.

SON Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre résidant à Constantinople a présenté un tacrir dans lequel il a exposé ce qui suit.

Le Sieur Naoun, négociant et agent Britannique à Adana, a acheté à Tarsous 10,000 batman de sel, production de l'Ile de Chypre, et l'a fait transporter à Adana, où il en a vendu une partie. Sur ces entrefaites, un nommé Nicola Dahau s'est mis en avant en se disant l'apaltateur du sel; il a enlevé avec violence le sel qui se trouvait dans le magazin, et a même exigé l'argent du sel qui avait été vendu. Indépendamment de cette affaire, quelques négocians Anglais ont acheté en Chypre une quantité de sel qu'ils ont fait venir par un bâtiment à l'échelle de Mersin (Tarsous). Mais le Caïmakam de Tarsous ne leur a pas permis de le débarquer et de le vendre au public, ce qui a causé aux négocians susdits, tant pour nolis que sous d'autres rapports; des pertes considérables. Monsieur l'Ambassadeur demande que le sel enlevé à l'agent susmentionné lui soit rendu; qu'on permette le débarquement et la vente du sel au public; qu'on indemnise les négocians susdits pour les pertes qu'ils ont essuyées par suite des procédés tenus à leur égard, et qu'il ne soit pas mis obstacle à ce que les négocians susdits fassent librement le commerce du sel.

Bien que le sel ainsi que les productions de l'alun et du tabac soient des fermes du Gouvernment assujetties depuis très long tems à de nombreux réglemens, qu'il soit également clair que jusqu'à présent il n'y a pas d'exemple qu'on ait vendu dans les limites assignées pour la vente des produits d'une saline, du sel provenant d'une autre saline, et que le commerce de détail et l'Esnafliq (être membre d'une corporation) soient en Turquie des choses qui d'après l'ancien système appartiennent particulièrement aux sujets de la Sublime Porte, cependant il est né des difficultés entre les deux Gouvernemens, de l'interprétation de quelques termes et du sens du Traité de Commerce conclu avec le Gouvernement susdit. Ainsi il est devenu nécessaire de permettre aux sujets du Gouvernement susmentionné de vendre au public le sel qu'ils acheteront et qu'ils importeront dans les pays qui seront soumis à votre autorité, jusqu'à ce que les difficultés une fois levées, je vous envoye à l'avenir une autre lettre de la manière qui sera combinée et arrêtée avec l'Ambassade susdite.

Par conséquent votre Excellence permettra aux sujets Anglais de faire le commerce du sel comme il a été dit plus haut, temporairement; elle fera rendre à l'agent ci-dessus mentionné le sel qu'on lui a enlevé; elle fera payer par le canal du Cadi du Conseil Municipal et de négocians experts les dommages qu'on dit avoir été éprouvés par les négocians Anglais; et après avoir arrangé ces affaires, elle fera un rapport là-dessus. Et c'est à ces fins que je vous écris et que je vous envoye cette lettre, à la réception de laquelle vous agirez de la manière y énoncée.

(L.S.) REOUF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 16.

Sir Stratford Canning to Mr. Consul Ongley.

Constantinople, March 5, 1845.

Sir,

REFERRING to your several representations concerning the difficulties made by the Turkish authorities in Candia to the participation of Her Majesty's subjects in the retail trade of the country, and particularly in the traffic of gunpowder, shot, lead, coffee, and tobacco, salt and alum, I have now the satisfaction to send you a vizirial letter suspending in their favour the prohibitory regulations enforced of late with respect to those articles. You will be careful to obtain on every suitable occasion, the complete execution of the Grand Vizier's orders thus transmitted through you to the Pasha of Candia, and you are not to infer from the language in which they are couched, that the slightest change has taken place in our interpretation of those passages of the Commercial Convention to which his Highness's letter alludes.

I am ,&c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 4 in No. 16.

Sir Stratford Canning to Mr. Consul Suter.

Constantinople, March 5, 1845.

Sir,

THE accompanying letter addressed by the Grand Vizier to the Pasha of Adana, as you will learn from the translation which is joined with it, gives permission for the sale of the salt respecting which you wrote to me some time ago, and orders the reimbursement of any losses occasioned by the operation of the restrictive measures, and also suspends the further operation of those measures.

You will be careful to obtain an early and complete execution of the Grand Vizier's commands, and you will not infer from the language in which they are worded, that the slightest change has taken place in our interpretation of the Commercial Convention between the two countries.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 17.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 127.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 22, 1845.

THE Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has consented to withdraw the objectionable regulation respecting the traffic in valonea, in pursuance of my urgent representations under your Lordship's instructions; but the withdrawal is intended to be temporary, and a discussion will probably be raised upon the subject whenever the disputed points of the Commercial Convention shall be brought into consideration with a view to their definite adjustment.

This concession is however the more important, as I have reason to believe that the Porte intended to assert a right of pre-emption with respect to wool, and not improbably to other articles of Turkish produce also.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 18.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 137.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, June* 2, 1845.

ALTHOUGH I have no reason to be dissatisfied with the effect of the vizirial letters dispatched to the provinces in execution of my agreement with Chekib Effendi respecting the suspension of the Porte's objectionable restrictions on the operation of the Commercial Convention, I am concerned to state that other cases of complaint have arisen relating to the same treaty, and indicative of the Porte's adherence to an arbitrary and encroaching system of fiscal policy.

I refer in particular to two cases upon which I have thought it my duty to address the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs. One of them is a fresh attempt at monopoly; the other involves an immense increase of the import duties on certain British manufactures, under the pretext of a change of value and description.

Extracts from the correspondence of Her Majesty's Consuls at Brussa and Adrianople are inclosed herewith in explanation of the points at issue.

A copy of my official note to Chekib Effendi is also submitted to your Lordship with this despatch. It met with no unfavourable reception from his Excellency; but there has not yet been time to submit its contents to the Council.

The question stated by Mr. Sandison is not as clear in point of right as from its important bearing on our commercial interests I could wish; and it would be a great satisfaction to me to have your Lordship's opinion for my ulterior guidance, in the event of my experiencing any sustained resistance from the Porte.

It is evident that an unlimited application of the principle on which the Turkish claim is grounded, would be in direct opposition to the spirit and intent of the Commercial Treaty, if it did not violate its express stipulations; but on the other side it must in fairness be acknowledged that a strict enforcement of the adverse principle might prove a source of much real embarrassment to the Porte, and circumscribe the operations of its finance to a degree both unexpected and vexatious. It appears to me that I secure an advantage in taking up the question on the case brought forward by Mr. Sandison.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Mr. Sandison's Protest.

Brussa, May 18, 1845.

THE undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, has been officially informed by the Douanier, Mahomet Ali Aga, of this city, that he levies 2¼ per cent. of internal duty on British manufactures when made up into dresses for sale in the public bazaars here, and further 12 per cent. customs with fees, 13½ per cent. nearly on the same articles at their exit from the town for internal consumption elsewhere, the ground assigned being that the goods have changed their primitive form.

Under the application of this vague term, susceptible of every sort of extension, any imported merchandize might in the first stage of its distribution to retailers or consumers be subjected to taxation without limit.

When British cotton yarns are wrought up into local manufactures, it is not questioned that they lose their distinctive original character; nor is it necessary to touch here on what different species of process may operate the like conversion in regard to other articles, so that the product may come properly under the designation of Turkish manufactures.

It is sufficient to refer to the Commercial Convention of 1838 between Great Britain and Turkey, based on general definite principles, without detailing the special contingencies incident to its operation; and it establishes certain fixed duties on commodities in lieu of all other whatsoever, which are 5 per cent. customs in full on British imported merchandize.

The superaddition of internal duties, and to the extent of 16 per cent. on the goods when merely put into a suitable form for use, without any change in the substance or appearance of the stuffs employed, would entirely destroy the validity of the First Additional Article of the Treaty, if consistent with its tenor or spirit; and whether the articles are exhibited ready made in the public shops, or the merchandize is shaped into dresses or household furnishings of all sorts in any other way convenient for the owners, the process of cutting and stitching is the same, and the principle of taxation adopted alike applicable.

The interests and immunities of British commerce are thus seriously compromised, with the care and protection of which the undersigned is charged in this district, and its import trade under this recent innovation is visibly decayed.

The undersigned therefore formally protests Mahomet Ali Aga, the Douanier, and whomsoever else it may concern, on account of the aforesaid exactions, inasmuch as opposed to the specific terms or true construction of the Commercial Convention of Balta Liman.

(Signed) D. SANDISON,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Mr. Consul Simmons to Sir Stratford Canning.

Adrianople, May 29, 1845.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour of transmitting to your Excellency the inclosed petition and protest of Messrs. G. Schnell and Co. of this place, against the dispositions of his Excellency Mehmed Ali Pasha, Mushir of Tophana, for having prevented the delivery of wool to the agents of said Messrs. G. Schnell and Co., which they had contracted for.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) GEORGE SIMMONS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 18.

Petition and Protest of Messrs. Schnell and Co., of Adrianople.

AU mois de Mars dernier nous eûmes occasion dans un entretien de vous parler des prétentions extravagantes du Moudir de Silivria, qui prétendait s'arroger le droit de s'emparer de toutes les laines de son district que nous avions déjà accaparées depuis le mois de Février, mais la lettre que son Excellence Tahir Pacha lui avait adressée sur ce sujet l'avait mis à la raison, et nos agens ont continué leurs opérations en distribuant toujours des avances qui s'élèvent jusqu'aujourd'hui à la somme d'environ 200,000 piastres. Malheureusement nous venons de recevoir une lettre de notre principal agent par laquelle il nous informe qu'au moment où il devait commencer à recevoir les laines, un Arménien nommé Gaspar, accompagné par deux cavass et muni d'un boyouroukdi de la part de Mehmed Ali, Pacha de Tophané, est arrivé sur les lieux et a fait intimer à tous nos contractans qu'ils eussent à lui livrer toutes les laines, et s'ils s'avisaient de détourner une seule oque en faveur de nos agens, qu'ils les feraient garotter et expédier à Constantinople; en même temps il a chassé nos agens qui se trouvaient dans divers localités pour recevoir nos laines, et voici, Monsieur le Consul, ci-incluse la traduction que nous venons de recevoir par un exprès *ad hoc*.

Mehmed Ali Pacha veut prétendre qu'il a besoin de ces laines pour compte du Gouvernement pour servir à une fabrique de draps, mais nous savons positivement que cela ne peut pas être, car le Gouvernement a dans ce moment des laines en quantité pour vendre, et qui plus est, nous sommes en traité avec le Beyliktzi Effendi pour une partie de laines de 60,000 oques, par conséquent il n'y a pas à douter que Mehmed Ali Pacha cherche à favoriser l'Arménien en question, dans quelque but que lui seul peut savoir; enfin d'une manière ou d'autre cela ne veut pas dire que ce n'est pas un acte arbitraire et une contravention du dernier Traité de Commerce qui abolit les monopoles; par conséquent notre position, Monsieur le Consul, est tellement critique qu'elle a motivé le prompt départ de notre Sieur Ed. Schnell pour Silivria, qui part demain matin pour tâcher de faire entendre raison à cet Arménien ou soit aux cavass; à défaut il se rendra à la capitale pour réclamer l'assistance de son Excellence Sir Stratford Canning, en attendant nous protestons formellement contre qui de droit, pour tous frais, dommages et intérêts qui résulteront dans cette désagréable affaire, et veuillez, Monsieur le Consul, transmettre copie légalisée de notre présente requête à son Excellence.

Inclosure 4 in No. 18.

Sir Stratford Canning to Chekib Effendi.

Pera of Constantinople, June 2, 1845.

THE Undersigned, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, has the honour to call the attention of his Excellency the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to the accompanying papers received respectively from the British Consuls at Adrianople and Brussa.

The Consul at Adrianople has forwarded to the Undersigned a complaint and protest given in by a British merchant named Schnell, in consequence of the delivery of a quantity of wool destined for his use by contract, having been violently prevented by the arbitrary interference of cavasses acting in the name of his Excellency Mehmed Ali Pasha, Mushir of Tophana.

The Consul at Brussa complains of 13½ and 2½ per cent. having been levied in addition to the regular import duties of 2 and 3 per cent. on British manufactures when made up into dresses for sale in the public bazaars, and he forwards a protest against the damages thereby resulting to the parties interested.

In the one as in the other case it appears that the provisions of the British Commercial Treaty with the Sublime Porte have been altogether overlooked, and the Undersigned is compelled by a sense of duty to resort without loss of time to the Turkish Government for such redress as the terms and declared purposes of the Treaty entitle him to expect.

The Undersigned, &c

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 19.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 181.)

Constantinople, August 4, 1845.

My Lord,

IN my No. 137 of June the 2nd, I brought under your Lordship's notice two cases of what might be termed infringement on the provisions of the Commercial Treaty. Both were laid before the Turkish Government by means of an official note, of which I had the honour to transmit a copy to your Lordship with that despatch. Of these questions, the one to which my attention was directed by Her Majesty's Consul at Brussa, remains undecided; and the other I am sorry to state, in so far as the Turkish Ministers are concerned, is decided in the negative.

As I am far from seeing any reason to acquiesce in this decision, at the same time that I despair of making good my own opinion without assistance from home, I have no resource but that of referring to your Lordship's superior judgment.

The question at issue is simply this. Does the Convention of Balta Liman preclude the Turkish authorities from levying upon goods the produce of Turkey destined for exportation, any interior duty, independent of tithe, which the purchaser is not bound to pay.

Chekib Effendi asserts that the Porte is warranted in levying such a duty, because in the 4th Article, which regulates the payment of export duties on articles of Turkish produce, it is not provided as in the First Additional Article, that no interior duties but the 9 per cent., *whether levied on the seller or buyer*, are to be exacted.

It appears to me that the omission of that clause upon which Chekib Effendi counts so largely in the 4th Article, is amply supplied by the general sense and indisputable meaning of the 6th Article, which expressly provides that the regulations established in the Treaty, "shall be applicable to *all the subjects*, whatever their description, of the Ottoman dominions."

This interpretation is contested by Chekib Effendi, who pretends that the passage just quoted was designed only to express the application of the Treaty to all parts without distinction, of the Ottoman dominions, forgetting that provision was already made for this object in the first clause of the same article.

Your Lordship will perceive from the accompanying report addressed to me by M. Pisani, that even the production of a firman confirming my interpretation of the Article in question, has failed to produce any impression on Chekib Effendi's mind.

In the case of the British merchant named Schnell, though redress was obtained for the violent seizure of the wool which he claimed, the payment of the interior duty called *Ihtissab*, was peremptorily enforced and finally paid by Mr. Schnell on behalf of the Turkish seller.

It is thus made evident that the duty must ultimately fall upon the merchant who makes his purchase for exportation, unless the right of exemption is clearly established in favour of the seller as well as of the buyer.

I have to request that I may be made acquainted with the pleasure of Her Majesty's Government as to this point; and it is my duty to add that the question at issue derives a greater importance from its connexion

with other demands, injurious to the free enjoyment of the privileges assigned to Her Majesty's subjects by treaty, and supported with so much pertinacity by the head of the Financial Department.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 19.

M. Frederick Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Péra, le 1er Août*, 1845.

Mr. SCHNELL, négociant Anglais établi à Andrinople, ayant acheté par l'intermédiaire de son agent Haham-oglou, 511 mesures de sésame pour expédier en Europe, le percepteur des droits dits Ihtissab à pris de Haham-oglou, contrairement au Traité de Balta Liman, 580 piastres à titre d'Ihtissab, sur la susdite quantité de sésame.

A la demande de votre Excellence, son Altesse le Grand Vizir a écrit le 6 Avril dernier une lettre au Pacha d'Andrinople, lui ordonnant de faire rendre les 580 piastres; mais la lettre vizirielle n'a pas produit l'effet auquel nous nous attendions. Le Pacha d'Andrinople a fait savoir à Mr. Schnell qui si les 580 piastres ont été prises de son agent, c'est parceque celui-ci était engagé à payer pour le vendeur les droits d'Ihtissab, et qu'il ne pouvait par les faire rendre.

En conséquence l'Ambassade qui n'admet pas que l'Ihtissab doive être payé par qui que ce soit, a demandé de nouveaux ordres pour la restitution des 580 piastres.

Mais aux yeux de la Porte la question a changé de face. Chékib Effendi soutient que le vendeur est tenu de payer l'Ihtissab. "La Porte est prête à ordonner la restitution des 580 piastres à l'agent de Mr. Schnell," dit le Ministre, "mais elle doit ordonner en même temps la perception de cette somme du vendeur du sésame."

Chékib Effendi prétend qu'il n'y a rien dans le Traité de Commerce qui puisse empêcher la Porte de prendre du vendeur les droits d'Ihtissab, et n'admet pas que le 6me Article du Traité vient à l'appui du principe que nous mettons en avant, savoir: que l'Ihtissab ne doit être payé par qui que ce soit.

J'ai cité en faveur du raya qui a vendu le sésame à l'agent de Mr. Schnell, un firman publié au mois d'Août 1840, qui accorde aux sujets Ottomans les mêmes avantages dont jouissent les sujet des Puissances qui ont fait un traité sur les bases du Traité de Balta Liman. Il est dit dans ce firman: "On ne doit percevoir des sujet Ottomans, indépendamment de la dîme qui doit être payée par le vendeur, que neuf et trois pour cent sur les articles d'exportation, et que trois et deux pour cent sur les articles d'importation."

Chékib Effendi a repliqué: "d'après ce firman qui, d'ailleur, ayant été donné par un acte spontané de la Sublime Porte, peut être révoqué de même, on ne peut pas exiger les droits d'Ihtissab du marchand Ottoman qui aura acheté des marchandises pour exporter, pas plus que d'un marchand Anglais; mais le vendeur, qu'il ait vendu à un négociant Ottoman ou à un négociant Anglais, est toujours tenu de payer les droits d'Ihtissab."

"La dîme," dit Chékib Effendi, "n'est jamais payée que par le producteur; mais lorsque les productions sont vendues soit dans les boutiques soit dans les magasins ou dans les marchés, ou enfin autrement, le vendeur doit payer les droits d'Ihtissab."

Inutile de répéter ici tout ce que a été dit de part et d'autre, pour et contre le droit de la Porte de percevoir l'Ihtissab sur les articles d'exportation; il suffit de dire que Chékib Effendi reste convaincu que le Traité de Commerce ne nous donne pas le droit d'exiger que la Porte ne prenne point d'Ihtissab; et qu'il a déclaré ne pouvoir nous donner d'autre lettre vizirielle que celle qu'il a déjà proposée et que je n'ai pas acceptée.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.,
(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

No. 20.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 94.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 3, 1845.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that the points adverted to in your despatches, No. 137, of the 2nd of June last, and No. 181 of the 4th of August last, have been duly considered by Her Majesty's Government. They relate to pretensions on the part of the Porte to establish a monopoly of wool in the district of Adrianople; to levy interior duties in the district of Brussa on goods made up of British merchandise which has already paid the Treaty duties; and further to levy the interior duty termed Ihtissab on Turkish produce destined for exportation.

As regards the first and last of these points Her Majesty's Government consider the pretensions advanced by the Porte to be inconsistent with its treaty engagements, and I have accordingly to instruct your Excellency to persevere in resisting them.

As regards the second point the case is more difficult; and if the duties complained of at Brussa attach only to articles made up of materials of British growth or manufacture, it appears doubtful whether the imposition of them amounts to a breach of treaty. On this point, then, I have to instruct your Excellency to obtain further information from Her Majesty's Consul at Brussa; and you will at the same time ascertain whether corresponding duties are levied upon articles made up of materials of the growth and manufacture of other European countries having treaties with Turkey similar to that of Balta Liman. If the duties in question merely affect British trade, and are not applied to trade in general, Her Majesty's Government would of couse think it right to claim in behalf of British commerce the exemption conceded in this respect to the commerce of other countries.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 21.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, September* 25, 1845.

THE period of seven years, during which it was agreed that the Tariff attached to the Convention of Balta Liman should remain in force, expires on the 13th of March next year; and the period assigned also by mutual agreement for the power of giving notice in case either party should desire a revision of the rates, will expire on the 13th of September following. As I have some reason to believe that the prevailing opinion among our merchants here is in favour of a revision, I think it my duty to call your Lordship's attention thus early to the subject, that in case Her Majesty's Government should think fit to adopt the opinion of the merchants, your Lordship's instructions may be issued for giving the requisite notice within the term appointed by the Treaty.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 22.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 19, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Cyprus, and of its inclosures, showing the prejudice accruing to many of the products of that island, by the prices at which under the existing Tariff they are rated for the export duty of 12 per cent.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22.

Mr. Consul Kerr to Sir Stratford Canning.

Excellency, *Larnaca of Cyprus, December* 31, 1845.

THE period of the expiration of our existing Tariff with the Porte being so near at hand, I take the liberty of respectfully inviting your Excellency's attention to a table which I have the honour to inclose herewith, showing how very seriously the trade of Cyprus is prejudiced by the prices at which many products of the island are rated for the payment of the export duty of 12 per cent.

I may state to your Excellency that with the exception of oil and colocynth, the articles mentioned in my table comprise nearly the whole of the export trade of the island; and not doubting that your Excellency will be kindly pleased to direct that steps may be taken to insure its delivery by the new Tariff from the heavy surcharge of duty under which it now suffers.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) NIVEN KERR,
Consul.

Inclosure 2 in No. 22.

Articles of Exportation from Cyprus.

		Price fixed in the Tariff.	Average price.	Surplus duty.
		Aspers.	Aspers.	Aspers.
Brandy or Raki, Turkish	*okr*	417	167	30
Colocynth	"	1440	1140	36
Cotton wool	*quintal*	24,400	18,000	792
Oil of Olives	"	20,400	18,000	288
Printed Calicoes of Cyprus, for quilts and table cloths	*piece*	2,750	1054	204
Printed calicoes, called Fazla, with boetcha and cushions	4 *pieces*	3,350	1650	207
Printed calicoes for mattresses	*piece*	3,350	1650	207
" sashes	"	1800	825	107
" sofas	*assortment*	16,800	7,800	1050
Wine of Cyprus (Commanderia)	*okr*	600	100	60
" common red, which comes under the article "Wine of all sorts of the Ottoman Empire,"	"	175	50	15

It results from the above calculations that oil now pays 13½, colocynth 15, cotton and wool 16½, printed calicoes 25, raki 30, common red wine 42, and Commanderia wine 72 per cent. instead of 12 per cent., as stipulated in the Commercial Convention.

Cyprus, December 31, 1845.

No. 23.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 5, 1846.

WITH reference to the approaching expiry of the period for which the Tariff was to remain in force without alteration, I have the honour to place under your Lordship's notice the copies inclosed herewith of a despatch addressed to me by Her Majesty's Consul at Bagdad, and of a memorial addressed to him by Messrs. Hector and Co., British merchants of that city. Among the points submitted by those gentlemen there are some which appear to be worthy of special consideration.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Major Rawlinson to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *British Consulate, Bagdad, February* 3, 1846.

IN submitting for your Excellency's perusal copy of a letter that I have received from Messrs. Alexander Hector and Co., merchants of Bagdad, drawing attention to certain matters which operate unfavourably on the prosecution of British trade in this part of the Turkish Empire, I do myself the honour to annex a few observations.

Messrs. Hector and Co. complain in the first place, that the Constantinople prices, according to which certain fixed duties are established in the English Tariff, vary so essentially from those of the provincial markets, that if the rates of the said Tariff be adopted as the standard of liability, the interior and export duties on some of the staple articles of Mesopotamia produce will be raised from 12 to nearly 25 per cent. Hitherto it appears that the Turkish authorities have been content to levy an *ad valorem* duty, and the evil therefore has not been practically felt of the disproportioned rates adopted in the Tariff, but the merchants are not satisfied that this moderation will be continued, unless the principle of an *ad valorem* duty be specifically recognised. In the Fourth Article of the Convention of Balta Liman, I perceive that the internal duties, commuted to a fixed rate of 9 per cent., are positively stated as an *ad valorem* liability—a provision of which the merchants might possibly avail themselves in defining the sum leviable on that account, if in regard to any particular article of produce, the rates established in the Tariff should be notoriously inapplicable; but I cannot find that any such latitude is allowed in arranging for the export duty of 3 per cent., although the frequent substitution in the Tariff of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* for a fixed duty, and the application of the same rate to all non-enumerated goods, distinctly mark the principle upon which the amount is calculated; and although the preamble to the Russian Tariff particularly mentions that in all cases of dispute regarding value, the duty of 3 per cent. shall be paid in kind. In the event of a revision of the Tariff, the uncertainty of which the merchants now complain might at any rate be obviated by making it optional with the exporter to pay the fixed duty in money, or one-eighth, one-third of the actual produce.

A more important question appears to me however to refer to the place where the *ad valorem* duty may be leviable. The 4th Article of the Convention of Balta Liman provides for the exaction of the entire duty at the place of shipment; and in the 7th Article it is also declared that these places of shipment shall be subsequently fixed by commissioners. Now in this part of the Turkish Empire the above provision has been wholly inoperative; and to such an accident is it alone to be attributed that the export of native produce has been at all practicable

for British merchants. The places of shipment for the wool, galls, &c., exported from this pashalic for the European markets, are Samsoon, Alexandretta, or Beyrout, ports which are so distant that the goods are doubled in value before arriving there, by the enormous expence of land carriage; and if the duty of 12 per cent. accordingly be levied *ad valorem* at these places, instead of being calculated on the prime cost at the place of production, the exportation will cease to be remunerative. This remark must I imagine apply to all distant provices of the Turkish Empire. Produce is cheap in those places on account of the expense of land carriage to the market-port of shipment for Europe, but on arriving at the port the article is rarely able to compete with produce obtained in the vicinity; and if therefore it be the wish of the Porte to admit those provinces to a participation in the supply of foreign markets, she must accord to them the privilege of paying duty on the spot, rather than at the port of shipment.

In connexion with this subject I have drawn up an abstract statement of the export and import trade of the Bagdad Pashalic during the past year, which your Excellency may perhaps consider to be of some interest. It is particularly worthy of remark that the balance of trade whether with Europe, through Syria and Asia Minor, with India and Bahrein, or with Persia direct, is equally against Bagdad. The quantity of specie annually exported to provide for the imports from these quarters amounts to at least 40 lacs of kerans, or about 200,000*l*. The remittances of the Government on account of surplus revenue should increase the withdrawal of money from the country by about 50,000*l*., and as a set off against this extraordinary drain of 250,000*l*. per annum, there is no perceptible return but the expenditure of the Persian pilgrims, which, reckoning the total number of visitors at 50,000, and the receipts at 50 kerans per head, will only account for a moiety of the sum withdrawn.

Money probably finds its way into the country in small sums from other quarters; but unquestionably the circulating medium is yearly diminishing, and unless native produce be encouraged so as to offer some means of marketable exchange, the trade of the province must inevitably give way before the exhaustion of specie. It is in this view then that I think your Excellency will agree in its being for the interests of the Porte to extend every possible indulgence to parties engaged in the export of wool and galls for the European markets. Under favourable circumstances I have reason to believe that the export of wool might be increased tenfold, but to create this activity it will be indispensable that the article shall reach the ports of shipment at a less cost than it can be procured in the immediate vicinity of those places; and if therefore the present exorbitant export duty must be retained, I should hope at any rate that the Turkish authorities might be induced to sanction its payment at the place of production, before the additional expence may be incurred of a thousand miles of carriage to the sea.

With regard to the other complaints which are brought forward by Messrs. Hector and Co., I may safely leave them, I think, to your Excellency's practised judgment. The duty and realization, intended no doubt originally as a mere remunerative fee to the party engaged in so troublesome a business, has certainly grown into an abuse; but as it is specially provided for in Article 73rd of the Capitulations and as it has been now in practice for above 200 years, I imagine there may be some difficulty in procuring its abolition or its transfer to the native debtor. The question also of sequestrating household property in order to satisfy the demand of a Christian creditor, is so repugnant to the spirit of Mahomedan law and usage, that I should hardly venture to hope it could be favourably entertained by the Ministers of the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. RAWLINSON,
Consul at Bagdad.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Messrs. Hector and Co. to Major Rawlinson.

Bagdad, January 20, 1846.

Sir,

AS it appears from the terms of the Commercial Treaty between Great Britain and the Porte, that the Tariff fixed at Constantinople on the 1st day of March 1839, will be shortly open to revisal, we the undersigned British merchants trading at Bagdad and Moosul, are desirous of calling your attention to a serious drawback which at present exists upon the British export trade in this part of Turkey; we allude to the high rate of duty placed upon one of the most important articles of native produce, viz. wool.

The respective duties of 2,214 and 738 aspers per quintal, are fixed by the Tariff upon that article, without reference to the quality of the article itself or to the place of its production. These duties are evidently calculated in reference to the Constantinople market value or to that of the finer wools of Asia Minor; and it seems remarkable that whilst distinctions are made both in respect to quality and locality in other articles, such at silk, cotton, &c., none whatever should have been made in this. We have hitherto generally by an arrangement with the local authorities been permitted to pay an *ad valorem* duty alone at the place of production; but should we be compelled according to the terms of the Treaty, to pay the duties of 2,214 and 738 aspers at the place of shipment, it would at least amount to 25 per cent. on the prime cost of wool produced in the Pashalic of Bagdad and Moosul (as per note annexed), and such duties would operate as a complete prohibition on the export of that article.

The quality of wool produced in this country varies to a very considerable extent, and a duty which the exporter might be able to pay on some sorts would amount to a prohibitory duty on others. We respectfully suggest therefore the propriety of a reduction being made in the duty now fixed by the Tariff or at any rate of some distinction being drawn, both between the places of production and the qualities of the article itself.

The above remarks will also in some measure apply to the export duties upon cotton and galls, which with reference to Bagdad and Moosul are greatly overcharged. The article galls alone has fallen fully 50 per cent. in value, since the tariff was framed.

The three articles which we have thus mentioned, viz., wool, cotton, and galls, if submitted to a moderate duty, would form the principle efforts of this part of Turkey, and we have no doubt that a proper reduction in the duties now placed on them would not only tend to increase British trade, but would also be productive of a decided benefit to the country itself.

We also beg to call your attention to the tax of 2 per cent. upon the entire sum which British merchants are compelled to pay to Government officers, who are employed in collecting their debts. Although we are aware that this levy is authorized by the 73rd Article of the Capitulations, we may perhaps be allowed to remark upon the great inconvenience and loss to which we are subjected by it. It acts as an inducement to our debtors to defer payment of their debts, and to contract their payments when called upon by our agents, as in both instances the inconveniences and loss fall upon us alone. These facts have become so notorious that we are now compelled to have recourse to Government officers for the recovery of at least three-fourths of our debts. It would seem but reasonable, that as it is not even customary to receive interest upon debts withheld, the debtors who wilfully persist in deferring payment of their just liabilities should be subjected to the expences arising from their refusal and delay.

There is also another circumstance which we would beg to submit. In case of natives of Turkey becoming insolvent and absconding, if they have landed property, it appears by the present law of Turkey that such property cannot be sequestrated and sold for the benefit of their creditors

during their absence. This is a circumstance which frequently occurs, and subjects the merchants to great inconvenience and loss. It may be said indeed that it acts as an inducement for insolvent parties to abscond; for their absence constitutes a protection to their property, which would not be accorded were they present on the spot. We would therefore suggest that in such cases some provision should be made to enable the local authorities to exercise the right of sequestrating and disposing of absentee debtors' property for the benefit of those concerned.

We trust that you will deem it advisable to submit these remarks to Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and recommend them to the consideration of his Excellency in the event of a revisal of the Tariff.

We have, &c.,
(Signed) ALEXANDER HECTOR & Co.

Note.—Average value of wool per maund of 28lbs., is 25 piastres. Four maunds being equal to one quintal, may be valued at 100 piastres. The interior and export duties of 2,214 and 738 aspers are equal to 24½ piastres, or 24½ per cent.

(Signed) A. HECTOR & Co.

Inclosure 3 in No. 23.

Abstract Statement of the Trade of Bagdad during the year 1845.

Imports.	Value in Mahomed Shah Kerans.	Exports.	Value in Mahomed Shah Kerans.
From Europe, via Syria and Asia Minor.		*To Europe, via Syria and Asia Minor.*	
		Wool, galls, gums, dyes and other petty articles of native produce	1,50,000
Bleached and unbleached cloths, prints, chintzes, tandinees, zebras, caps, coral, tissue paper, silk goods, haberdashery, cutlery, &c., &c., 2000 loads at 2000 ks. per load	40,00,000	*To Damascus, Aleppo, and Samsoon, for consumption in Syria and Constantinople.*	
		Ispahan tobacco, 14,000 bags at 50 ks.	7,00,000
		Silk from Persia, of different qualities ..	6,00,000
		Carpets from Persia	1,00,000
		Kerman shawls & Persian silk goods, &c.	50,000
		Persian dyes, madder, asfar, &c. ..	30,000
		Indigo from India, 400 boxes at 1000 ks.	4,00,000
		India silk and cotton goods from Calcutta	1,00,000
		Cashmere shawls and Surat goods from Bombay	1,50,000
		Pearls from Bahrein	5,00,000
		By bills on England and France ..	1,00,000
		By do. on Syria and Constantinople ..	1,00,000
		Remitted in specie	12,20,000
Kerans	40,00,000	Kerans	40,00,000
From India.		*To India.*	
600 boxes of indigo at 1000 ks.	6,00,000	2000 horses at 250 ks. each	9,00,000
Silk and cotton cloth, &c., &c., from Calcutta	2,00,000	Dates, rice and grain	2,00,000
		By bills on the Indian Government ..	2,00,000
European piece goods and manufactures, iron, tin, sugar, cutlery, hardware, &c.	1,50,000	By private bills	2,50,000
		Cash sent to Bahrein for pearls ..	6,00,000
Spices and drugs of all sorts from Bombay	4,00,000		
Cashmere shawls and Surat goods	2,00,000		
Pearls from Bahrein	6,00,000		
Kerans	21,50,000	Kerans	21,50,000
From Persia.		*To Persia.*	
14,000 bags of Ispahan tobacco at 50 ks.	7,00,000	100 boxes of indigo at 1000 ks. ..	1,00,000
6000 ditto Shiraz ditto at 20 ks.	1,20,000	3,000 reams of paper	1,80,000
Silk from Resht	8,30,000	Lamb-skins, hides and leather ..	1,00,000
Carpets, bags, Arab tents, horse clothes, &c.	2,50,000	Sugar, pepper, and spices of sorts ..	1,00,000
Cotton cloths of Persian manufacture ..	5,00,000	Salt, sulphur, naphtha, &c.	1,50,000
Kerman shawls, glassware, tea, cutlery, &c.	1,00,000	Dates	1,00,000
Stockings and gloves	2,25,000	European goods	21,95,000
Ghee, dry fruit, tafik, and dyes of sorts	60,000	Remitted in specie	
2000 loads of rice at 30 ks.	1,40,000		
Haberdashery, beeswax, drugs, medicines			
Kerans	30,25,000	Kerans	30,25,000

(Signed) H. RAWLINSON,
Consul at Bagdad.

No. 24.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 46.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 18, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to place under your Lordship's immediate notice a correspondence, of which copies are herewith inclosed, between Her Majesty's Consul-General and myself, respecting a revision of our Tariff with the Porte, and the operation of the Turkish stamp duty.

I have but little to remark in addition to what I addressed to the merchants through Mr. Cumberbatch.

My impression is that the merchants are correct in looking upon the present Tariff as raising the duties to an unfair proportion on some important articles; and I shall be happy to receive at an early period your Lordship's authority for demanding a revision of that agreement.

The time for giving notice began on the 13th instant, and terminates on the 13th of September next.

With respect to the stamp duty I have no doubt that it operate more unfavourably than would seem at first sight on the interests of trade, and that it is liable to be continually extended and even to serve as a precedent for the imposition of other burthens operating indirectly on commerce. But it is difficult to imagine that the Porte will entirely abandon its right of internal taxation, until some clearer understanding be established as to the limitations prescribed by the Convention of Balta Liman. According to the terms of that Treaty the duties imposed upon British owned merchandize are not to exceed 9 per cent., and 2 per cent. in lieu of all internal duties; and at the same time the Porte has expressly reserved the rights of its internal administration. The operation of the Treaty is thus placed in a vicious circle, and frequent differences and complaints must arise from time to time so long as the true line of demarcation between the conflicting pretensions remains undefined and unknown.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir, *Pera, March* 10, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the inclosed copy of a letter which I have received from the British merchants of this city dated the 6th instant.

I beg leave to state that I entirely concur in the opinion therein expressed, that the interests of British trade require a revision of the Tariff.

The reasons for requiring it should not however perhaps be grounded on the fact alone that there has been a great depreciation of the value of most of the principal articles of export and import since 1839, for it may be considered also that the duties, especially the interior duties of 9 per cent., might be calculated upon a more equitable basis than on the last occasion.

The suggestion proposed, that on all goods entered by British traders at the custom-house after the expiration of the Tariff on the $\frac{1}{13}$th March, an approximation rate should be paid and the accounts regulated hereafter when the duties payable during the next seven years have been fixed, would doubtless be advantageous; but it may be apprehended that the Turkish Government might not be willing under present circumstances to accede to a change in the rate which was followed on the expiration of the last tariff.

Upon the subject of the stamp duties, any observations on my part

would be superfluous and misplaced; and I have therefore only to add, in recommending that your Excellency would be pleased to take the necessary steps for the revision of the Tariff, that if proof be required, it could readily be shown by a comparative statement of the present prices and those of 1839, how greatly depreciated in value the principal articles of trade have become; and it could also be easily shown that so far from their being likely to recover their former value, the causes which have led to their depreciation are likely to continue and to affect them in a still greater degree.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. CARLTON CUMBERBATCH.

Consul-General.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Mr. Black and other British Merchants at Galata to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch.

Sir, *Galata, March* 6, 1846.

THE expiration of the term of our Tariff of duties being at hand, we take leave to inform you that the interests of the British trade require its revision, owing to a depreciation in the value of almost every article, and particularly as regards British manufactures.

We therefore request that you would be pleased to make the necessary communication to his Excellency the Ambassador, in order that the Turkish authorities may be apprized of the circumstances; and we further venture to suggest that arrangements be made with them to the effect that the duties on all goods entered at the custom-house by British traders after the $\frac{1}{13}$th instant be simply noted, the receivers paying an approximation rate thereon until the revision of the Tariff shall have been effected, and then the accounts to be regulated by the rates that may be fixed for the next seven years.

We avail of this occasion to revert to a communication you were pleased to make to us under date of the 4th November, 1845, with reference to a stamp duty on bills of exchange and every contract between British subjects and those of the Porte, which we did not sooner notice because it appeared already sanctioned by his Excellency the Ambassador, on the ground that "British subjects were not entitled to resist it;" and we would request of you to state to his Excellency, which we beg to do with all deference and respect, that trifling as this concession appears to be, we are prepared to prove that it is many times greater than it seems and in some instances will no doubt reach 1 per cent. in lieu of 1 per mille; so forming a real tax on the trade.

Our fear is that it may be made a precedent for renewed and heavier exactions hereafter, whereas the Commercial Convention exempts the British trade from every tax or duty beyond those specified therein. Such being the case we cannot but consider this charge a deviation from the provisions of the Treaty, and can only submit to it from necessity.

Finally we humbly and respectfully solicit his Excellency to adopt such measures as will secure from further encroachment the rights and privileges granted us by treaty.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) T. N. BLACK,
WOOD, JANION & Co.
CHARLES EDE,
CHARLES HANSON & Co.
HAYES, LAFONTAINE, & Co.
WHITTALL & WATSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 24.

Sir Stratford Canning to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch.

Pera, March 14, 1846.

Sir,

Having taken into my attentive consideration the several points submitted to you by most of the British merchants established here in a letter dated the 6th instant, and communicated to me with your despatch of the 10th, I have now to request that you will convey the following answer on my part to the gentlemen who signed that letter.

Her Majesty's Secretary of State has already on more than one occasion been reminded by me of the approaching period at which the Tariff would be open to revision, and his Lordship has also been put in possession of the prevailing wishes in favour of its amendment. I shall nevertheless avail myself of the earliest opportunity to fix the attention of Her Majesty's Government upon the reasons now more particularly stated in favour of that view. The opinion of so many respectable merchants founded on their personal experience and seconded by your recommendation, can hardly fail to produce the desired effect.

I should be happy to comply at once more entirely with the wishes of the mercantile body, but if I were to assume the responsibility of denouncing the present Tariff without instructions, there would, as you justly estimate, be little prospect of my prevailing on the Porte to deviate from the rule adopted on the expiration of the late Tariff. Unable therefore to justify the adoption of an unauthorized step by any immediate practical advantage, I must be content for the present to place before Her Majesty's Government the important interests which call for an early relief from the existing rates of valuation, and to endeavour with the least practicable delay to obtain the requisite authority for accomplishing that object.

The remarks of the merchants upon the actual operation and eventual consequences of the stamp duty imposed by the Porte last year, as well upon its own as upon British and other foreign subjects, shall also be brought under the notice of Her Majesty's Government; I cannot however presume to anticipate a more favourable result than that which I communicated to you many months ago in virtue of special instructions from the Foreign Office, founded upon an opinion given by the legal advisers of the Crown. That the duty in question operates indirectly as an additional charge upon commercial transactions, and that it is liable not only to be extended but to serve as a precedent for the imposition of other indirect charges, can hardly be denied; but it would not be easy to prove that the Porte has absolutely renounced its right, however moderately employed or universally applied, of increasing or sustaining its revenue by means of any internal taxation not bearing upon the immediate objects of traffic and their conveyance from place to place. The exercise of this right appears indeed to have been emphatically guarded by a clause in the First Additional Article of the Convention signed at Balta Liman; and I am confident that no British merchant would desire any advantage not to be obtained without encroaching upon those limits to which by the stipulations of a solemn agreement the good faith of the Government and of the country appears to have been pledged.

I cannot satisfactorily conclude this reply without requesting to be informed whether I am to understand the last paragraph of the letter communicated to you as referring exclusively to the stamp duty and its contingent results, or whether it is thereby intended to draw my attention to other measures of the Turkish Government which may be thought to press disadvantageously on the interests of British commerce. My duty to resist, and if possible to correct, whatever may be wrong in such measures, being no less obvious than my inclination to do so is manifest, I am naturally desirous that no uncertainty should remain upon this point. You will therefore apply to the gentlemen who signed the above-mentioned letter for a full explanation of their meaning, and you will lose no time in making me acquainted with their answer.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 4 in No. 24.

Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch to Sir Stratford Canning.

Constantinople, March 19

Sir,

THE merchants to whom your Excellency was pleased to direct that I should communicate your Excellency's despatch of the 14th, met and read it at my house on the 18th instant, the day after I received it, and I lose no time in transmitting the inclosed copy of a letter I have since received from them, in explanation of the last paragraph of their letter of the 6th instant, as requested by your Excellency.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. CARLTON CUMBERBATCH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 24.

Mr. Black and other British Merchants at Galata to Mr. Consul-General Cumberbatch.

Galata, March 18, 1846.

Sir,

HAVING perused his Excellency's letter of the 14th instant, which you were pleased to communicate to us, we take leave to say in explanation of the last paragraph of our letter to you of the 16th instant, that as trade cannot be carried on without the use of the stamps which have been introduced by the Turkish Government, we consider the duties payable thereon in the light of a direct taxation upon it, and therefore an encroachment, which leads to the apprehension that if the principle of such duties be admitted it may serve as a precedent for other duties of a similar nature; and also that the existing rates, though moderate at present, may be indefinitely increased hereafter.

Finally, that they did not intend by the expressions used, that his Excellency's attention should be drawn to any other measures of the Turkish Government operating disadvantageously upon the trade.

We have, &c.,

(Signed) T. N. BLACK.
CHARLES HANSON & Co.
WHITTALL & WATSON.
HAYES, LAFONTAINE, & Co.
CHARLES EDE,
WOOD, JANION, & Co.

No. 25.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 26.)

Foreign Office, April 6, 1846.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 46, of the 18th of March, inclosing copies of a correspondence with Her Majesty's Consul-General, respecting the wish of the British merchants at Constantinople that the Tariff should be revised; and I have to acquaint you that I have communicated a copy of the same to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade for immediate consideration.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 26.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 47.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 19, 1846.*

I COMMUNICATED to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade a copy of your Excellency's despatch No. 46, of the 18th of March, respecting the wish of the British merchants at Constantinople that the Tariff of 1839 should be revised.

In conformity with the recommendation of that department I have to instruct your Excellency to notify to the Porte, before the period for giving such notice shall expire, that Her Majesty's Government will require the Tariff of 1839 to be revised.

The principles on which Her Majesty's Government desire such revision to be effected will be hereafter made known to your Excellency. Her Majesty's Government are fully sensible how much British interests are involved in the careful performance of this duty, not only as regards the commerce of British subjects with the Turkish provinces in general, but especially as regards that with Egypt, Syria, and the Danubian Provinces.

With the view of obtaining all the preliminary information which is requisite to enable them to furnish your Excellency with definitive instructions on this matter, Her Majesty's Government would wish your Excellency to call upon Her Majesty's Consuls in the several portions of the Turkish dominions to furnish you with statements in detail (sending copies thereof at the same time to this Office), respecting the several points in which the Tariff of 1839 may require amendment, with such suggestions for improvements as the Consuls may be able to obtain from British merchants within their districts; and Her Majesty's Government will on their part endeavour to obtain the best information on the subject from the merchants in this country engaged in trade with Turkey.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 27.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 48.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 19, 1846.*

I COMMUNICATED to the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade copies of the inclosures in your Excellency's despatch, No. 37, of the 5th of March, respecting the disadvantages to which British commerce in the Pashalic of Bagdad is exposed under the existing Tariff; and I have to acquaint to you in reply that the statements in these papers should be laid before the Commissioners who may eventually be entrusted with the revision of the Tariff of 1839, and that the commissioners should be directed to attend as far as possible to the suggestions of Major Rawlinson and the Bagdad merchants, with the view of settling definitively the place at which the value of goods purchased for exportation shall be ascertained.

It is right however that I should inform your Excellency that the usual practice is to ascertain the value of goods rated for duty *ad valorem* at the place at which the duties are actually levied.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 28.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 49.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 19, 1846.*

ALTHOUGH the question of the revision of the Tariff which is directed in my despatch No. 47, is that which presses more immediately on Her Majesty's Government at the present moment, it may nevertheless be expedient that your Excellency, in calling the attention of Her Majesty's Consuls to that matter, should also instruct them to furnish any further observations which they may have to offer at the present time respecting the bearing of the existing commercial regulations upon British trade with Turkey. Her Majesty's Government will in all probability on the conclusion of the Commercial Treaty between Russia and Turkey, have to decide upon the expediency or otherwise of attempting to effect an improvement in the treaties by which British commerce with Turkey is regulated; and they would naturally desire to have before them the fullest information to assist them in their consideration of that question.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 29.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 66.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 30, 1846.*

ON going this morning to take leave of Reshid Pasha I found his Excellency prepared for a conference with the Russian Envoy, who had received the assent of his Government to the Commercial Treaty of which a copy has been confidentially transmitted to your Lordship. The object of the conference was to sign the Treaty in question, and as I left the parties ready to proceed to the execution of that formality I presume that it is by this time duly completed.

Reshid Pasha informed me before the arrival of Monsieur de Titow, that no alteration had been made in the projet of the Treaty. But this point is to be ascertained by comparing the copy transmitted to your Lordship with the Treaty now signed.

Reshid Pasha apprized me of his intention to communicate officially not only to me but to the Representatives of other Powers concerned, the conclusion of this Treaty, and to propose a modification of the British Commercial Convention so as to bring it into harmony with the terms accepted by Russia. In reply to this notice I reminded his Excellency of the ample discussions which had taken place between Sarim Effendi and me three years ago, and I expressed my readiness to convey to your Lordship his proposals for a reconsideration of the existing Convention as soon as I should receive them officially from him, observing that although I entertained no doubt as to the friendly disposition of Her Majesty's Government on such an occasion, I could not but anticipate that the maintenance of the leading principles of the Convention and a fair return for any sacrifices which might eventually be made to the convenience of the Porte, would be regarded in England as indispensable conditions of the proposed negotiation.

The French Ambassador appears to expect instructions founded upon a common understanding between his Government and that of Her Majesty, though if the negotiations were to take place here I think he would have to be guided mainly by the opinion of certain French merchants or deputies whom he is bound to consult on commercial questions.

The Austrian Internuncio, according to Reshid Pasha's account, has applied to his Government for full powers to negotiate a convention of commerce with the Porte.

It is not impossible that the Ottoman Minister will defer making any official communication upon this subject till after the exchange of ratifications with Russia; but in any case I venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the importance of taking in time, either singly or concurrently with others, such a position as may secure us from the awkwardness of conceding with a bad grace what the example of any Power less interested in commerce than Great Britain may render it difficult to withhold.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 30.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 3.)

(Confidential. No. 79.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 17, 1846.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a corrected copy of the Commercial Treaty lately concluded between the Turkish and Russian Governments on the basis of the British Convention of Balta Liman. I have received it confidentially from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs. It has been communicated in the same manner to the French Ambassador and the Austrian Internuncio. The ratifications have not yet been received from St. Petersburgh. What few alterations have been made since the last reference to that capital will appear from a comparison of the present copy of the Treaty with that which I forwarded to your Lordship in one of my preceding despatches.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Commercial Treaty between Russia and the Porte, signed at Balta Liman, April 30, 1846.

Au Nom de Dieu tout puissant.

CONFORMEMENT aux rapports de l'amitié parfaite qui existent entre le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et l'Empire Ottoman, toutes les dispositions relatives au négoce, au droit de douane, aux immunités et autres affaires commerciales des négocians des deux Empires, s'effectuent selon les stipulations des anciens traités; mais les deux Augustes Cours, tout en maintenant et corroborant les stipulations établies par les Traités précédens, étant animées du désir et pénétrées de la nécessité de conclure un nouveau Traité de Commerce, afin de faciliter et d'augmenter les relations commerciales, de manière à les adapter aux améliorations salutaires introduites dans l'administration des affaires intérieures de la Turquie et aux convenances actuelles du commerce;—

Sa Majesté Impériale le très haut et très puissant Souverain et Padichah de toutes les Russies a autorisé le Soussigné, son Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire près la Sublime Porte, le Conseiller d'Etat actuel Wodimer Titow, Chevalier Grand Cordon de l'Ordre de Ste. Anne de la première classe, et de St. Stanislas de la première classe, décoré du Nichan Iftieker de Sa Majesté le Sultan, et de l'Ordre Persan du Lion et du Soleil, de négocier et de régler cette question en le munissant à cet effet de pleins pouvoirs, signés et revêtus du sceau Impérial; et

Sa Majesté le très haut et très puissant Souverain, Empereur et Padichah des Ottomans, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, Membre du Ministère, l'un des Mouchirs de l'Empire, Moustafa Réchid Pacha, décoré du Nichan de son poste et du Nichan de distinction

affectée à sa personne, Chevalier Grand Cordon de la Légion d'Honneur de France, de l'Aigle Rouge de Prusse, de Charles III. et d'Isabelle la Catholique d'Espagne, de Léopold de Belgique, du Lion Néerlandais des Pays Bas, et de l'Epée de Suède; et l'un des hauts fonctionnaires de l'Empire, Kihaya de la Sultane Mère, Directeur de l'Hôtel de la Monnaie, régissant en même temps la Douane de Constantinople, Mehmed Sahir Bey, décoré du Nichan affecté au rang supérieur auquel il est élevé, et d'un Nichan de distinction pour sa personne; lesquels ont été nommés et autorisés par les pleins pouvoirs qui leur ont été délivrés par Sa Hautesse à conclure le dit Traité sur les bases arrêtées de part et d'autre. A cet effet après nous être concertés avec les Plénipotentiaires susmentionnés du Gouvernement Ottoman, nous avons réglé et statué en vingt Articles le Traité dont la teneur suit:—

ARTICLE I.

Tous les traités et stipulations qui ont existé jusqu'ici entre la Cour de Russie et la Sublime Porte, relativement aux droits, privilèges et immunités des sujets et bâtimens Russes en Turquie, et notamment le Traité de Commerce du 10 Juin, 1783, et l'Article VII du Traité d'Andrinople, sont confirmés dans toute leur force et valeur à l'exception de ce qui est expressément modifié ou aboli par la présente Convention. La Sublime Porte s'engage à les faire observer inviolablement par toutes les autorités militaires de terre et de mer et autres fonctionnaires. Elle promet et assure en outre aux sujets et bâtimens Russes la pleine et entière jouissance de tout droit, bénéfice, ou avantage, qui est ou serait accordé dorénavant dans ses Etats aux nations étrangères les plus favorisées.

ARTICLE II.

Ainsi qu'il a été stipulé par les Traités précédens, le droit de douane restera invariablement fixé à trois pour cent pour le commerce extérieur, et sera prélevé comme par le passé tant sur les produits Russes ou étrangers importés en Turquie, que sur les produits Turcs exportés des Etats Ottomans par les négocians Russes, par leur délégués ou par leurs ayant-cause.

ARTICLE III.

Tout négociant et sujet Russe est libre d'acheter en personne ou par l'intermédiaire de ses ayant-cause les articles et objets provenant du sol ou de l'industrie de la Turquie, soit pour les exporter soit pour en faire le commerce dans l'intérieur des Etats Ottomans.

Les sujets Russes ou leurs hommes d'affaires auront la droit de transporter les dits produits ou marchandises à toute échelle de l'Empire Ottoman, sauf les restrictions indiquées plus bas dans les Article XI et XII, sans que les dites marchandises soient passibles, ni pour l'acheteur ni pour le vendeur, d'aucune charge ou droit de Teskéré, Mourowrié, Bidaat, Ihtissab, ou autres semblables; mais la Cour de Russie n'entend pas entraver le Gouvernement Ottoman par cet Article ou par quelque autre de la présente Convention, dans l'exercice de ses droits de souveraineté dans sa propre administration intérieure, en tant que ces droits ne dérogent point aux privilèges accordés aux sujets Russes et à leurs propriétés, soit par les anciens Traités ou par la présente Convention, et pourvu que les impôts dont sont frappés les sujets Ottomans, conformément à ces mêmes droits de souveraineté, ne portent une atteinte manifeste, sous quelque rapport que ce fût à la présente Convention, ou qu'ils n'imposent directement de nouveaux droits sur le commerce des sujets Russes. La Cour de Russie ne prétend rien stipuler au delà du sens naturel et véritable des termes employées dans le présent Acte. En compensation de tous les droits intérieurs supprimés, la Cour de Russie à la suite d'un accord spécial entre les deux Gouvernemens, consent à ce que le négociant Russe paye à l'arrivée de la marchandise à l'échelle, un droit d'entrée (*améliié*) fixe et supplémentaire de neuf pour cent indépendemment du

trois pour cent de droit de sortie (*reftié*) qu'il devra payer comme autrefois à l'embarquement de la marchandise pour l'exportation. Toute somme ou valeur perçue au-delà du neuf pour cent précité, sous telle dénomination ou sous tel pretexte que ce soit, directement ou indirectement pour le compte du fisc ou des préposés, sera considérée une infraction au présent Traité, et la Sublime Porte s'engage sur la représentation qui en sera faite par la Légation Impériale, de la faire restituer sans délai à l'acheteur ou au vendeur, dont elle aurait été perçue, de punir sévèrement les fonctionnaires de quelque rang qu'ils soient qui se seraient permis une pareille infraction, et d'indemniser le négociant Russe des pertes et vexations qu'il prouverait en être résultées pour lui. Tout objet qui serait acheté à l'échelle d'embarquement ou au lieu de sortie et qui aurait déjà payé le neuf pour cent du droit d'entrée ne sera plus soumis qu'au paiement du seul droit primitif de trois pour cent pour l'exportation.

ARTICLE IV.

Tout objet produit du sol ou de l'industrie de la Russie ou des pays étrangers, qui appartiendrait à des sujets Russes, sera admis comme par le passé dans toutes les parties de l'Empire Ottoman, moyennant le paiement de 3 pour cent de droit d'importation. En remplacement de tout droit et redevances intérieures qui ont pesé sur les dits objets, le négociant Russe ou son homme d'affaires, soit qu'il les vende au lieu d'arrivée, ou qu'il les expédie dans l'intérieur de l'empire pour les vendre, payera à l'avenir un droit supplémentaire de 2 pour cent. Mais comme le mode de la perception de l'ancien droit de 3 pour cent à part, lors de l'arrivée des marchandises à l'échelle et du droit additionnel de 2 pour cent à part au moment de la vente, occasionne des embarras à l'Administration de la Douane, on est convenu que dans le but de les éviter, l'ancien droit de 3 pour cent et l'additionnel de 2 pour cent, c'est-à-dire en tout 5 pour cent de droit d'entrée et de droit additionnel, seront perçus à la fois, et seront inscrits séparément dans les registres de la douane, et après de ménager en même temps les intérêts des négocians, il pourra leur être accordé, moyennant garantis, de ne payer le dit droit additionnel de 2 pour cent que dans le terme d'une année à compter de la date où il aura été inscrit dans le livre de la douane. Si ensuite ces mêmes marchandises sont revendues à l'intérieur ou à l'extérieur, il ne sera plus exigé aucune espèce de droit ni du vendeur ni de l'acheteur sujet Ottoman ou étranger, ni de celui qui les ayant achetés voudra les expédier au dehors. De même, si un sujet Russe ou son délégué achetait en Turquie des objets de provenances étrangères qui aurait acquitté à leur entrée le 3 pour cent de droit d'importation, il aura la faculté d'en trafiquer en Turquie, comme aussi de les exporter, si bon lui semble, sans payer aucune autre redevance, excepté le 2 pour cent de droit supplémentaire d'après le Tarif.

Les articles d'importation qui, destinés à être envoyés d'un port à l'autre, auront payé le droit de 3 pour cent et l'additionnel de 2 pour cent à la fois dans le premier port, pourront être envoyés dans un autre, franc de tout droit. Dans le cas où ces marchandises ne seraient pas vendues dans les Etats Ottomans, et que, sans qu'elles aient passé en d'autres mains, on aurait besoin de les envoyer à l'étranger, alors le droit additionnel de 2 pour cent qui aura été acquitté sera seul restitué au propriétaire de la marchandise.

ARTICLE V.

Lorsque les sujets Russes ou leurs hommes d'affaires auront acheté des objets du produit de la Turquie et voudront les revendre dans le lieu où ils se trouvent, ou dans d'autres parties de l'Empire Ottoman, ils payeront lors de l'achat et de la vente, les droits établis pour les sujets les plus privilégiés de l'Empire Ottoman qui s'occupent du commerce intérieur sans qu'il soit rien demandé au-delà, et aucune vexation ne sera faite aux sujets Russes par suite de ce commerce intérieur dont l'exercice ne pourra porter atteinte aux dispositions de l'Article qui suit.

ARTICLE VI.

En vertu du principe de la liberté de commerce consacré par les traités précédens, les négocians Russes après avoir payé sur les marchandises, objets et denrées qu'ils auraient importés de Russie ou de l'étranger, les droits établis, auront la faculté de les vendre librement en Turquie, tant en gros et en ballot qu'en fractions détachées dans leurs magasins ou autres lieux affectés à l'exercice de leur commerce, à condition toutefois de n'en pas faire un même commerce à l'instar des Esnafs avec yédik ou sans yédik, sujets de la Sublime Porte, et sauf les restrictions stipulées dans les Articles X et XI de la présente Convention. Egalement les négocians et sujets Russes trafiqueront en gros, en ballots, et en fractions détachées des produits du sol et de l'industrie qu'ils auront achetés dans les Etats Ottomans, aux mêmes conditions que ci-dessus. L'exercice des métiers dans les Etats Ottomans étant affecté aux sujets de la Sublime Porte, les sujets Russes ne pourront pas non plus tenir des ateliers pour exercer ces métiers.

ARTICLE VII.

La Sublime Porte confirme dans toute sa plénitude la liberté de transit accordée par les Traités précédens aux marchandises et aux bâtimens de commerce Russes qui traversent les Détroits de Constantinople et des Dardanelles pour se diriger de la Mer Noire dans la Mer Blanche, et *vice versâ*. Mais dans le cas où il serait nécessaire que les objets arrivés ainsi pour être vendus ailleurs, fussent débarqués à terre et mis en dépôt pour un terme limité, en attendant la continuation de leur trajet sur les mêmes et sur d'autres navires de commerce, la Douane devra être absolument informée, afin que les marchandises soient déposées cachetées dans les magasins de la Douane, ou s'il ne s'y trouvait pas de place, dans un autre local convenable du site et sous le cachet de la Douane, de manière à être rendues dans le même état au propriétaire par l'entremise de l'autorité douanière au moment où elles devront être expédiées. A cet effet, il ne sera demandé aucun droit ou redevance. Les articles qui seront importés en Turquie et que l'importateur n'aura point vendu dans les Etats Ottomans et expédiera dans d'autres pays, ne payeront que le 3 pour cent d'importation sans être passibles d'aucun droit d'exportation ou d'autre redevance quelconque.

ARTICLE VIII.

Aucun monopole ne subsistera plus dans les Etats Ottomans, ni sur les produits de l'agriculture, ni sur d'autres productions quelconques, sauf les restrictions à cette règle générale mentionnées et précitées par l'Art. X et XI de la présente Convention. Sous cette même réserve, la Sublime Porte renonce aussi à l'usage des permis, ou teskérés demandés aux autorités locales pour acheter les marchandises ou de les transporter d'un lieu à un autre. Toute tentative que serait faite par une autorité quelconque pour forcer les sujets Russes à se pourvoir de semblables permis ou teskérés, ou à payer une redevance quelconque pour cette permission, sera considérée comme une infraction aux Traités et entraînera les conséquences prévues par l'Article III de la présente Convention.

ARTICLE IX.

Dans le cas où une disette, ou quelque autre nécessité absolue, obligerait la Sublime Porte à interdire l'exportation d'une marchandise ou denrée du produit de la Turquie, un terme convenable sera fixé pour la mise en vigueur de cette prohibition; et la Légation de Russie sera avertie préalablement quelle sera la marchandise prohibée et combien de temps cette prohibition devra durer, afin que cela soit publié dans les échelles

requises. Il ne sera accordé à cet égard aucune exception en faveur de qui que ce soit, et si telle chose avait lieu, on en agira de même en faveur de négocians Russes.

ARTICLE X.

Les canons, la poudre, les balles, et autres projectiles destinés à l'usage des armes à feu resteront prohibés au commerce comme article de guerre, et les particuliers ne pourront vendre que de la grénaille pour la chasse, de manière à ne jamais surpasser le poids de 5 oques, et de la poudre en proportion.

Si les canons étaient apportés par des navires marchands Russes dans un but de commerce, ils ne seront ni vendus, ni expédiés à l'insu des autorités. A cet effet ils seront débarqués à la Douane du port où ils arriveraient. Celle-ci les fera mettre en dépôt, et lorsque d'autres bâtimens de commerce auront besoin de les acheter, la Douane en vérifiera la vente et ne délivrera pas au-delà du nombre des canons convenables à l'usage de pareils navires.

ARTICLE XI.

La Cour de Russie à la suite d'un accord établi entre les deux Gouvernemens, consent à excepter de la liberté générale de commerce assurée aux sujets Russes, les articles suivans passibles de restrictions ou de redevances spéciales au profit du fisc Ottoman, à titre de droits régaliens.

1°. La pêche et la vente de poisson pour en faire un commerce, étant un traffic des Esnafs, et sous ce rapport affecté aux sujets du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, les sujets Russes n'auront pas la permission de la faire.

2°. La pêche des sangsues sera, comme autrefois, référée à l'administration exclusive du Ministre des Finances.

3°. La vente de l'alum importé de l'extérieur ne pourra se faire si ce n'est d'après les réglemens spéciaux établis par la Sublime Porte. Mais les négocians Russes seront libres d'acheter et d'exporter l'alum produit de la Turquie moyennant le paiement des droits établis par l'Article III de la présente Convention.

4°. Comme l'importation du sel de l'étranger dans les Etats Ottomans est défendue et que chacune des Salines située dans l'empire ayant son arrondissement spécial (*oran*) il n'est pas permis de vendre le sel de l'un dans l'arrondissement de l'autre; les négocians Russes aussi se conformeront à ce réglement établi; mais ils pourront exporter le sel produit des Etats Ottomans, en payant les droits établis, à l'instar des autres marchandises d'exportation.

5°. Le tabac à priser importé de l'étranger ne pourra être débité qu'en gros, tel qu'il arrive, sans défaire les carottes, et sans déboucher les boîtes ou les vases dans lesquels on l'apporte. Mais la vente en détail à la balance, sera exclusivement réservée aux Esnafs. Le tabac du produit de la Turquie sera librement acheté pour l'exportation, mais il ne sera point permis aux négocians Russes de le revendre dans les Etats Ottomans.

6°. Le tabac à fumer du produit des Etats Ottomans, étant assujetti indépendamment du droit de la dîme qui sera perçu d'après l'usage, à une redevance pour la permission de le cultiver; les négocians Russes qui acheteraient ce produit pour l'exportation paieront le 9 pour cent et le 3 pour cent, en tout 12 pour cent de droit de douane selon l'Article III de la présente Convention, et seront tenus d'exhiber au moment de l'exportation, le teskéré qui constate que le vendeur a payé la dîme et la redevance ci-dessus indiquées. Mais dans le cas où ils ne seraient pas munis d'un pareil teskéré ils devraient les payer eux-mêmes en entier s'ils revendent le tabac qu'ils auraient acheté dans les Etats Ottomans, comme cela constituerait un commerce intérieur, ils paieront les mêmes droits établis que les sujets les plus privilégiés de la Sublime Porte.

7°. Le débit de vins et autres boissons fortes ne sera point exercé par les sujets Russes à l'oque ou au verre ni dans les boutiques ni dans leurs

magasins ou navires ou embarcations ou chaloupes; mais ce commerce sera permis en gros, par tonneaux ou dames jeannes sans être entravé par aucun taxe ou difficulté en dehors des Traités. Si les boissons fortes qu'ils auront apportées sont du produit des Etats Ottomans comme cela constituerait un commerce intérieur, ils paieront les mêmes droits que les sujets les plus favorisés de Sa Hautesse.

ARTICLE XII.

La soie provenant du sol Ottoman, après avoir payé le droit de douane, pour être exportée à l'étranger ne pourra être transportée dans ce but à des échelles écartées ou dénuées de douane, mais on devra l'embarquer aux ports et échelles spécifiés dans une liste que la Porte a remise à la Légation de Russie, qui ne pourra être modifiée par la suite, sans un accord préalable avec cette Légation.

ARTICLE XIII.

Les privilèges et autres conditions stipulées par le présent Acte, seront scrupuleusement observées à l'égard de tous les sujets et négocians Russes, qu'ils fassent le commerce en personne ou qu'ils en chargent leurs fondés de pouvoirs, agens associés de quelque nation qu'ils soient. Mais la Légation de Russie veillera à ce que ses nationaux ne puissent abusivement prêter leur nom à des spéculations étrangères ou illicites, et si jamais un sujet Russe était convaincu de pareils abus, il ne manquera pas d'être réprimé par les Autorités Russes selon la gravité du cas.

ARTICLE XIV.

L'exhibition à la douane du manifeste relative à la cargaison des bâtimens des négocians Russes aura lieu conformément au règlement qui sera arrêté de concert entre la Sublime Porte et la Mission de Russie.

ARTICLE XV.

En rendant exécutoires les conditions stipulées par la présente Convention dans toutes les possessions de l'Empire Ottoman en Europe, Asie, et Afrique, la Sublime Porte s'engage à ce que dans le Pachalik d'Egypte et ses dépendances, il soit fait usage à l'égard du commerce des mêmes arrangemens et facilités de détail qui y sont établis pour le commerce des autres nations les plus favorisées.

ARTICLE XVI.

Les deux Cours Contractantes prenant en considération que parmi les provinces qui font partie des Etats de la Sublime Porte, les Principautés de Valachie, de Moldavie et de Servie jouissent du privilège d'une administration distincte, sont convenues que les marchandises de provenance Russe et étrangère que les négocians Russes importeraient dans les dites provinces, payeront aux douanes de ces dernières les droits stipulés par l'Article IV de la présente Convention sans en payer dans les autres échelles de la Turquie où les marchandises dont il s'agit aborderaient de passage, ou seraient déposées à terre pour un terme limité afin de poursuivre leurs navigations moyennant les conditions prescrites par l'Article VII du présent Traité.

ARTICLE XVII.

Les droits et les dispositions stipulées par la présente Convention à

l'égard des sujets et négocians Russes ne pouvant pas d'après les lois commerciales observées en Russie être entièrement appliquées dans les Etats Russes envers les sujets et négocians de l'Empire Ottoman, c'est-à-dire, une pleine réciprocité à cet égard ne pouvant pas avoir lieu, les sujets et les négocians de la Sublime Porte et ses navires de commerce qui fréquentent les Etats Russes et qui y exercent le commerce, ainsi que les produits des Etats Ottomans, seront traités dans les Etats Russes, conformément aux dispositions qui sont adoptées envers les sujets et les négocians, les navires et les produits des Puissances étrangères les plus favorisées.

ARTICLE XVIII.

La durée de la présente Convention Commerciale est fixée à dix ans depuis la date de la signature, c'est-à-dire, jusqu'au mois d'Avril, 1856. Six mois avant l'expiration de ce terme, les deux Cours auront à se prévenir mutuellement si leur intention est de se tenir ultérieurement aux dispositions du présent Acte ou de s'entendre sur quelques modifications à y apporter pour la meilleure facilité des relations commerciales qu'elles tiennent à cœur de favoriser et de protéger entre les nationaux respectifs.

ARTICLE XIX.

Malgré que le Tarif qui règle aujourd'hui les droits à prélever sur le commerce Russe en Turquie ait été stipulé pour douze années à compter du $\frac{1}{13}$ Octobre, 1842, il est convenu que le dit Tarif restera en vigueur jusqu'à l'expiration du terme de la présente Convention et que l'un et l'autre devront être renouvelés ensemble à l'expiration de ce terme. Durant cet intervalle les deux parties voulant éviter toute incertitude en ce qui concerne les droits supplémentaires à prélever sur le commerce Russe, ont arrêté que le 9 pour cent est égal au triple des sommes indiquées par le Tarif actuel, et le 2 pour cent aux $\frac{2}{3}$ de ces mêmes sommes sans préjudice du privilège réservé aux négocians de payer le droit en nature pour les articles dont le prix n'est point fixé dans le Tarif.

ARTICLE XX.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée par les deux Gouvernemens dans les deux mois après la signature ou plus tôt si faire se peut et sa mise à exécution commencera le $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet de l'année courante.

Le présent Traité ayant été arrêté selon la teneur des vingt Articles ci-dessus énoncés, il sera définitif aussitôt qui les ratifications auront été échangées dans ce terme précité, et en attendant le présent instrument a été rédigé, muni de ma signature et de mon sceau, et échangé contre celui qui a été délivré par les hauts fonctionnaires précités, Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Fait en Balta Liman, le $\frac{18}{30}$ Avril, 1846.

(Signé) TITOW.

No. 31.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 80.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 17, 1846.

NOW that a Commercial Treaty on the basis of the Convention of Balta Liman is concluded between the Porte and Russia, the former Power is desirous of obtaining from Her Majesty's Government the concession of those points which were objects of discussion and explanation

between me and Sarim Effendi in the years 1842 and 1843. With this view an official note of which a copy is herewith inclosed, has been addressed to me by Ali Effendi. Similar notes have been presented to the French and Austrian Representatives, and also I believe to the Ministers or Chargé d'Affaires of other Powers which have acceded to the Convention of Balta Liman.

In my reply to Ali Effendi, of which a copy is also inclosed herewith, I have endeavoured to intimate the general inclination of Her Majesty's Government, to consult the interests of the Porte, without committing your Lordship to any particular course of proceeding. There is no denying at the same time, that although we have been for some months practically relieved from the disadvantages occasioned to British trade by the pretensions of the Porte, and are now about to be relieved from those produced by the separate position of Russia, much inconvenience and misunderstanding are to be apprehended from a continued want of agreement respecting the disputed passages of our Convention and the intended range of some of its stipulations. It must also be admitted that the line of concession taken as to several of those points by Russia, will make it more invidious for Her Majesty's Government to pursue a course less agreeable to the Porte. The Russian Cabinet has not indeed departed from the great principles laid down at Balta Liman, and your Lordship will observe that in my answer to Ali Effendi's note, I have been careful to keep the same principles prominently in view; but every exceptional point brought forward by Sarim Effendi has I think been admitted into the Russian Convention. Even the right of participating in the retail trade of the country is maintained in a limited and somewhat indistinct manner by the terms of that instrument. The want of precision is perhaps more to be regretted than the limitation itself; for little advantage has hitherto accrued in a national sense from the exercise of trade in retail by British or rather Septinsular subjects. As to that branch of it which relates to wine and spirituous liquors, it is only a source of immorality, of disorders and occasionally of irritating disagreement between the Turkish authorities and Her Majesty's Embassy. The Russians with their usual tact, have expressly abandoned this portion of the trade. Viewed more comprehensively the retail trade may in due season atone for the irregularities inseparable from a part of it by its tendency when shared with foreigners, to promote that mutual intercourse of sects and classes, which seems to have been an indirect object of the Convention of Balta Liman, and which in its gradual development, may eventually favour the progress of civilization in Turkey, and consequently the extension of British commerce. A formal barrier is opposed to all improvement by the Esnafs or corporations, maintained with the effect, if not in a spirit of exclusion and as richly endowed with prejudice as with privilege.

From the language of the French Ambassador who has more than once touched upon this subject in private with me, I conclude that his Court and probably that of Vienna also, expects to find Her Majesty's Government disposed to concert with them the terms on which it may be deemed advisable to regulate the questions at issue with the Porte.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

Ali Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Traduction.) 11 *Mai*, 1846.

PAR suite de quelque différence entre le texte Anglais et le texte Turc du nouveau Traité de Commerce conclu il y a peu de tems entre la Sublime Porte et la Cour d'Angleterre, la faculté donnée au commerce intérieur a été généralisée, et elle a ainsi porté atteinte au système des corporations, lesquelles appartiennent exclusivement aux sujets de la

Sublime Porte, système dont les véritables intérêts du Gouvernement commandent la conservation; et de là il est né bien des difficultés.

La Sublime Porte a pris par le susdit Traité l'engagement d'abolir le système des monopoles; mais elle veut en même temps persévérer à maintenir, comme cela se pratique dans chaque Gouvernement qui se réserve certaines restrictions, son droit de se réserver, elle aussi, des restrictions sur certains points; mais elle n'a pu être quitte encore des nombreuses difficultés qui se présentent. La nécessité donc de prendre des mesures pour apporter quelques modifications nécessaires au susdit Traité, afin qu'il ne restât aucune espèce d'incertitude dans les relations commerciales entre les deux parties, étant devenue évidente, votre Excellence a été plusieurs fois prié d'obtenir à cet effet l'acquiescement de votre Cour; et vous avez promis d'employer vos bons offices à cet égard, en déclarant en même tems que comme le Gouvernement Russe n'avait pas encore accepté les nouveaux principes établis par le nouveau Traité, si, en faisant un traité, il adhère à des conditions conformes aux modifications que la Sublime Porte désire, cette circonstance attirera l'attention de votre Gouvernement; et en attendant votre Excellence a ajourné la mise en pratique des modifications proposées, jusqu'à la conclusion d'un Traité avec la Russie. La même réponse a été faite par les Ministres de Sa Majesté Britannique à l'Ambassadeur Ottoman à Londres, toutes les fois qu'il avait agité cette question.

Or, le Traité dont il s'agissait vient d'être conclu avec la Cour de Russie, et les conditions modificatives que la Sublime Porte avait désiré apporter, y ont été insérées complètement. La sollicitude de votre Gouvernement pour la Sublime Porte, sollicitude qui découle naturellement des sentimens d'affection et d'amitié sincère dont il est animé envers elle, n'avait pas besoin d'être appuyée par l'exemple d'autrui; mais voilà qu'un exemple s'est présenté.

La Sublime Porte, intimement convaincue que l'illustre Gouvernement Britannique, sur les soins officieux duquel elle comptera toujours, voudra bien acquiescer à ses vœux qui sont fondés sur l'équité et la justice, prie votre Excellence, qui, étant douée d'une parfaite équité, ne pourra qu'avouer que la demande est tout à fait juste, d'employer sans délai ses bons offices à l'effet d'obtenir l'adhésion de votre Cour au complètement du Traité, en y apportant les modifications nécessaires tout en en conservant les bases.

Et je saisis, &c.,
(Signé) ESSEID MEHMED EMIN ALI. (L.S.)
Le 15 *Djemazi-ul-Evel*, 1262.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Sir Stratford Canning to Ali Effendi.

Pera, May 11, 1846.

THE Undersigned has received the note by which the Sublime Porte informs him that a Commercial Convention having been concluded between the Ottoman and Russian Governments, it is hoped that the British Government will now accede to certain modifications of the Convention of Balta Liman, required by the doubtful construction of some of its passages, and the bearing of others upon some special interests and fiscal regulations which the Porte is desirous of reserving, at the same time that he maintains the abolition of monopolies, and in general the fundamental principles of the Convention.

The Undersigned, presuming that the Porte's Convention with Russia will, after its ratification by both parties, be duly communicated to Her Majesty's Government, and that it contains stipulations which impose upon Russian merchants the same amount of export and import duties now payable by the British trading in Turkey, proposes to take the earliest opportunity of submitting the Ottoman note to Her Majesty's Government, and calling their attention to the important proposal which

Ent 35

it contains, of regulating the points at issue by mutual agreement.

The Undersigned presumes that these points are the same which were objects of special discussion and explanation between the Sublime Porte and Her Majesty's Embassy, when his Excellency Sarim Effendi held the office of Minister for Foreign Affairs.

It is not necessary for him to repeat the declarations which in the discharge of his duty he has made more than once to the Ottoman Ministers, either as to the friendly dispositions of Her Majesty's Government, their views of their own rights under the Convention of Balta Liman, or the principles upon which it is natural to expect that the proposed negotiation can alone be eventually conducted.

He hopes sincerely that Her Majesty's Government may now find themselves at liberty to meet the wishes of the Sublime Porte; and he cannot for an instant doubt, in the present gratifying state of the relations which so happily subsist between the two Courts, that reciprocal sentiments prevail on the part of the Ottoman Government.

The Undersigned, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 32.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 3.)

(Confidential. No. 81.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 17, 1846.

ALTHOUGH the difficulty of obtaining any concession by way of equivalent for such modifications agreeably to the views or interests of the Porte, as Her Majesty's Government may consent to receive into the Convention of Balta Liman, is increased by the compliance already obtained from Russia, it may be worth while to bear in mind that the present Turkish Administration, and more particularly its leading member, is inclined to look with a certain degree of favour on suggestions such as those which I ventured to submit to your Lordship in the earlier part of this correspondence. In a very confidential conversation which I had with Reshid Pasha, under circumstances of a private nature, before his departure with the Sultan, I found him not only well disposed as to several points of internal improvement having in some respects an important and beneficial bearing upon commercial interests, but even desirous that any fair opportunity of hastening their adoption by means of a friendly pressure from without should be embraced by those Powers which take a lead in the affairs of the East, and emphatically by that one whose counsels are the most regarded, and whose support in the hour of danger would be the most valued, as it is the most expected. I stop here for the present.

I was unwilling to neglect the opportunity of recalling this subject to your Lordship's recollection; but it would be obviously premature to go farther into its merits while the negotiation itself is still a matter of uncertainty.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.